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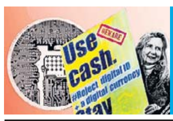


Culture warriors join battle over digital cash
BIG READ, PAGE 19

Britain's Tories have lost voters' attention
ROBERT SHRIMSLEY, PAGE 21

Universal deal lifts artists' pay in streaming revolution

- Deezer tie-up sparks big shift in model
- More money for professional musicians

ANNA NICOLAOU — NEW YORK

Universal Music has struck a deal to reshape the economics of music streaming, with changes aimed at directing more money to professional musicians and away from a "sea of noise" that chief executive Sir Lucian Grainge criticised this year.

The world's largest record company and Deezer, the French streaming service, have agreed an arrangement that they expect will lift payouts to professional artists by 10 per cent, in the first big shift in the music streaming business model since Spotify's launch in 2008.

As part of the model, streams of songs from professional artists — defined as those who generate at least 1,000 listens a month — will be given double the weight of streams from non-professionals when calculating royalty payments.

"This is a massive change in the way the music industry will work," Jeronimo Folgueira, Deezer's chief executive, said.

"We have 90mn tracks and many of them are just noise, like literally noise, the sound of a washing machine and rain. It is fundamentally wrong that 30 seconds of the recording of a washing machine gets paid the same as the latest single by Harry Styles."

If a listener actively seeks out a song or musician, the weight of those streams will be doubled again. For example, if a user searches "Taylor Swift" on the Deezer app and listens to one of her songs, it will be counted as four streams for royalty calculations.

The goal is to reduce the money flowing to amateurs, bots and white-noise soundtracks. Goldman Sachs estimated that the "long tail" of such content generated $900mn in royalties last year.

Michael Nash, Universal's chief digital officer, told the Financial Times that the changes would be "revenue positive" for the company, which is home to stars including Swift, Elton John and Drake.

The changes, if replicated across other streaming services, would have significant implications for the business. Services such as Spotify, Apple Music and Deezer have revived the industry, expanding sales for nearly a decade. But the way streaming money is paid out has not changed, a source of frustration for music companies and musicians.

In the current structure, listeners' monthly subscription fees are pooled into one royalty pot divided among copyright holders based on their share of listening. Royalties are paid the same regardless of who created the song or whether it was listened to passively via an algorithm or actively after a search. As long as someone listens for more than 30 seconds, the stream counts.

Goldman projected that the total music streaming market would make $38bn in revenue this year.

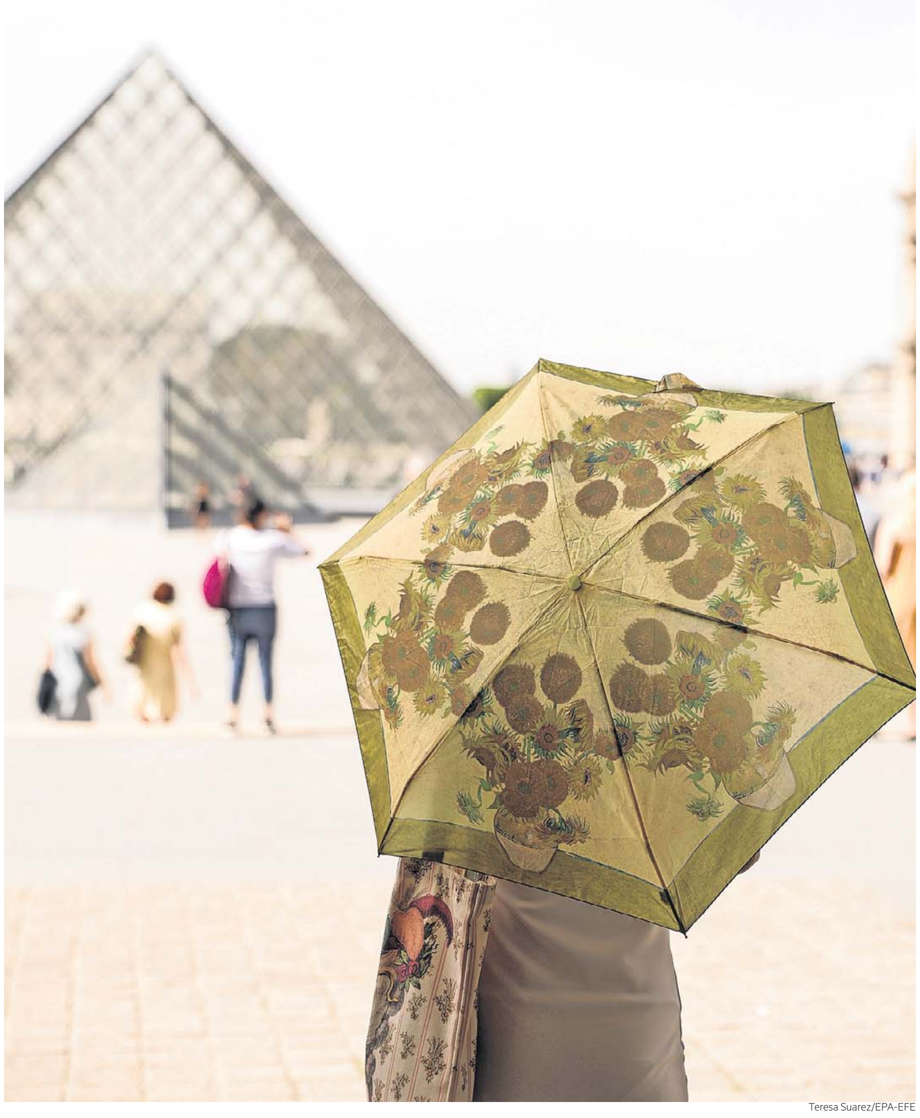
The streaming services pay music rights holders such as Universal about two-thirds of every dollar they collect. On average, streamers pay about $5 for 1,000 streams.

"Listening to a 31-second song by an independent artist, a full three-minute song by a popular artist, and five minutes of the sound of rain is all treated equally," the Goldman analysts noted.

Universal is also in talks with other streaming platforms including Spotify, Tidal and SoundCloud about changing the way they pay royalties.

Lex page 22

Close to the sun Hottest season on record puts world on alert to impact of changing climate



Teresa Suarez/EPA-EFE

A woman takes shade beneath her umbrella near the Louvre in Paris during the heatwave in France this week.

The world has had its hottest season since records began in 1940, with the northern hemisphere's scorching summer breaking 2019's record.

"Climate breakdown has begun. Our climate is imploding faster than we can cope, with extreme weather events hitting every corner of the planet," UN secretary-general António Guterres said, as he called on global leaders to take urgent action.

Europe has been hit hard by the extreme heat, with Greece and Spain suffering wildfires and floods. But weather patterns globally were mixed.

Despite record temperatures, there was also above-average rainfall over most of western Europe and Turkey, west and north-east North America, parts of Asia, Chile, Brazil, and north-western Australia, which in places led to flooding.

In Scandinavia, central Europe, large parts of Asia and the Americas conditions were drier than average, leading to unusual wildfires in some regions.

Adding to concerns for climate scientists, the extent of ice in the Antarctic sea was also at a record low level.

Hottest season page 4

Briefing

▸ Hedge funds pose danger to stability, watchdogs warn
Policymakers have singled out a group of hedge funds as potential sources of market instability in an escalation of concerns over the impact of their bets on bonds. The Financial Stability Board did not name the funds.— PAGE 6

▸ Erdoğan backs rate rises
The Turkish president has vowed to use "tight monetary policy" to cool fierce price growth, reversing his hostility to rate rises. Poland, meanwhile, attracted criticism as it cut its benchmark rate.— PAGE 2

▸ Latin America crime alert
An IMF official has warned that transnational gangs involved in drug trafficking and extortion are such a problem that they are damaging the region's overall economic performance.— PAGE 4

▸ New Covid jabs effective
Early studies have provided hope that the newest Covid-19 vaccines will help protect people against the mutated new variant BA.2.86, which scientists had feared might prove dangerous.— PAGE 6

▸ 16 die in Russian attack
Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said missiles were aimed at a market in the Donetsk region. US secretary of state Antony Blinken was on a surprise visit to Kyiv at the time .— PAGE 2

▸ Spain defends Telefónica
Madrid has vowed to defend its "strategic interests" after Saudi Telecom Company targeted a 10 per cent stake in the telecoms group, one of Spain's biggest companies.— PAGE 8; LEX, PAGE 22

▸ Dollar strength resisted
Officials in China and Japan have pushed back as a rally by the US currency threatens to drive both the renminbi and yen to historic lows. Weaker exchange rates have boosted both economies.— PAGE 12

▸ Eurozone construction hit
The latest purchasing managers' survey has shown house building in the region declining at the fastest pace since the pandemic started as rising interest rates and high inflation hit activity.— PAGE 2

Audit crisis prompts bid to ease industry entry rules

A shortage of accountants across the US, which has left municipal authorities unable to find auditors, has sparked a campaign to relax the profession's education criteria. As baby boomers retire, the numbers sitting exams has fallen. Audit bodies are pushing state legislators to ease the rule on an a fifth year of study, but critics fear for a system that lets accountants practise nationwide.

Accountants at odds ▸ PAGE 10
Lex ▸ PAGE 22

Swiss watchdog quits as storm around bank rescue leads to 'permanent stress'

OWEN WALKER AND LAURA NOONAN — LONDON

The head of Switzerland's financial regulator has resigned citing the toll on his health of "permanent stress levels", months after orchestrating the rescue of Credit Suisse by UBS.

Urban Angehrn, who has been chief executive of Finma for less than two years, played a pivotal role in negotiations over the most significant bank merger since the financial crisis. Finma announced yesterday that he would step down at the end of the month.

Angehrn said the "high and permanent stress level" of the job "had health consequences" for him.

"I have considered my decision carefully and have now decided to step down," the 58-year-old added.

Finma is being sued by Credit Suisse investors who lost billions of dollars after the regulator signed off a move to wipe out $17bn of bonds as part of the takeover by UBS.

The measure was particularly controversial because shareholders in Credit Suisse retained some value for their equity, overturning the traditional investor hierarchy even though it was permitted under Swiss law.

Questions were also asked about how Credit Suisse was allowed to get into such a perilous state that it was forced into a rescue by its longtime rival, prompting Angehrn to publish a defence of the regulator in Swiss newspaper NZZ in July.

A Swiss government-commissioned report into the collapse of Credit Suisse published last week found Finma was too weak to adequately handle banking crises. The report recommended giving Finma greater powers after concluding that it lacked teeth in comparison with international peers and struggled to enforce its will on the country's banking sector.

The watchdog has just 550 staff, compared with the thousands employed by other regulators such as the UK's Financial Conduct Authority.

Angehrn will be replaced by his deputy, Birgit Rutishauser, on a temporary basis from October 1.

Finma said Angehrn was instrumental in managing the Credit Suisse crisis, which it described as "the biggest challenge" in its history.

"During his term of office, Urban Angehrn had to cope with and be responsible for an extraordinary wealth of tasks in a wide variety of areas in addition to the day-to-day business," said Marlene Amstad, Finma's chair.

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Sep 6	Prev	%chg
S&P 500	4459.57	4496.83	-0.83
Nasdaq Composite	13864.31	14020.95	-1.12
Dow Jones Ind	34428.34	34641.97	-0.62
FTSEurofirst 300	1797.48	1807.96	-0.58
Euro Stoxx 50	4239.63	4269.16	-0.69
FTSE 100	7426.14	7437.93	-0.16
FTSE All-Share	4048.70	4055.78	-0.17
CAC 40	7194.09	7254.72	-0.84
Xetra Dax	15741.37	15771.71	-0.19
Nikkei	33241.02	33036.76	0.62
Hang Seng	18449.98	18456.91	-0.04
MSCI World $	2973.45	2990.17	-0.56
MSCI EM $	985.84	995.50	-0.97
MSCI ACWI $	683.97	688.12	-0.60
FT Wilshire 2500	5821.27	5851.83	-0.52
FT Wilshire 5000	45357.10	45606.20	-0.55

CURRENCIES

Pair	Sep 6	Prev	Pair	Sep 6	Prev
$/€	1.071	1.071	€/$	0.934	0.934
$/£	1.249	1.255	£/$	0.801	0.797
£/€	0.857	0.853	€/£	1.166	1.172
¥/$	147.630	147.685	¥/€	158.082	158.148
¥/£	184.390	185.411	£ index	82.320	82.314
SFr/€	0.956	0.952	SFr/£	1.115	1.116

CRYPTO

	Sep 6	Prev	%chg
Bitcoin ($)	25555.20	25788.70	-0.91
Ethereum	1621.74	1633.45	-0.72

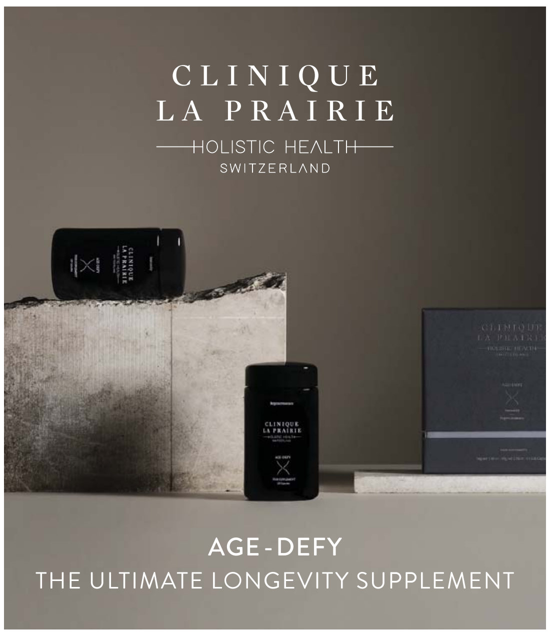
COMMODITIES

	Sep 6	Prev	%chg
Oil WTI $	87.15	86.69	0.53
Oil Brent $	90.28	90.04	0.27
Gold $	1926.10	1937.20	-0.57

GOVERNMENT BONDS

Yield (%)	Sep 6	Prev	Chg
US 2 yr	5.02	4.93	0.09
US 10 yr	4.30	4.25	0.05
US 30 yr	4.37	4.37	0.00
UK 2 yr	4.94	4.97	-0.02
UK 10 yr	4.63	4.63	0.00
UK 30 yr	4.74	4.75	-0.01
JPN 2 yr	0.01	0.01	0.00
JPN 10 yr	0.65	0.65	0.00
JPN 30 yr	1.64	1.66	-0.01
GER 2 yr	3.11	3.04	0.07
GER 10 yr	2.65	2.61	0.04
GER 30 yr	2.77	2.76	0.01

Prices are latest for edition
Data provided by Morningstar



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INTERNATIONAL

Turkey

Erdoğan heralds end of cheap money era

President backs more orthodox central bank policy to tame inflation

ADAM SAMSON — ANKARA

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has abandoned his life-long hostility to rate rises, vowing to use "tight monetary policy" to cool rampant price growth as his government acknowledged inflation would reach 65 per cent by the end of the year.

The remarks from Erdoğan, who had previously lashed out at the "interest rate lobby" and referred to higher borrowing costs as "the mother and father of all evil", are a sign he is backing the more orthodox monetary policy of his new economic team.

"With the help of tight monetary policy, we will bring inflation back down to single digits," Erdoğan said at an address yesterday to dozens of government officials at his Ankara palace.

Erdogan's previous disdain for monetary policy orthodoxy led to frequent turnovers in central bank governors and finance ministers as he put populist measures over fiscal discipline.

That approach is finding echoes in Poland where its central bank cut its benchmark interest rate by a larger-than-expected 0.75 percentage points yesterday, changing course on monetary policy ahead of other central banks and before a fiercely contested election.

Before the cut, some economists warned that Poland's central bank was being unduly influenced by politics and the goals of the ruling Law and Justice party, which is seeking a third term in office next month.

Turkey's finance minister, Mehmet Şimşek, and central bank chief Hafize Gaye Erkan have sought to cool the country's $900bn economy since their appointment in June following Erdoğan's re-election. Erkan's central bank has already raised interest rates from 8.5 per cent to 25 per cent.

Even during the election campaign in May, the president had insisted on keeping rates low in the face of price pressures, a policy widely blamed for igniting a prolonged inflation crisis.

As part of its medium-term economic programme published yesterday, the Turkish government said inflation would hit 65 per cent by the end of 2023, compared with 59 per cent in August. The forecast is higher than the 58 per cent the central bank predicted in late July. In the economic programme unveiled yesterday, the government said "monetary, fiscal and tax policies will be co-ordinated by prioritising price stability".

That marks a break from the pre-election era, when a stream of rules were introduced to keep the economy on an even keel without raising rates.

That strategy meant the country burnt through billions of dollars worth of foreign currency reserves in an unsuccessful attempt to prop up the lira.

The Turkish government pledged yesterday to maintain a "floating exchange rate regime" and said it would take "measures" to dent demand — and inflation — such as higher interest rates.

Inflation is set to fall to 33 per cent by the end of next year and reach single digits by the end of 2026. The government also expects growth to slow this year, with gross domestic product expanding 4.4 per cent compared with 5.5 per cent in 2022.

Additional reporting by Raphael Minder

Nato border. Escalation fears

Drone attacks on Ukraine rattle Romania

Bucharest confirms Russian unmanned aerial vehicle pieces found on territory

MARTON DUNAI — CONSTANTA

Russian drones targeting Ukrainian grain silos have repeatedly flown along the Romanian border over the Danube river in recent weeks, raising the Nato member's security concerns as Kyiv claimed at least one had crashed there.

Iulian, a Romanian shepherd who grazes his flock by the Danube, said he had seen drones fly along the river and strike Ukraine, one of the few instances that Romanians have witnessed since Russia invaded Ukraine 18 months ago.

"They came up along the river, I saw them hit there," he said.

The Danube, Europe's second-longest river, is a few hundred metres wide before it reaches the Black Sea. That is all the distance that separates a hit on Ukraine from a hit on the entire Nato alliance and its mutual defence clause.

Romania yesterday admitted that it found evidence of a Russian drone hitting its territory earlier this week.

"I confirm that in this area pieces that may be of a drone were found," defence minister Angel Tîlvăr told local news station Antena 3 CNN near Plauru, a village across the Danube from Izmail, a Ukrainian cargo port targeted by Russian drones in recent attacks.

Bucharest has reversed course after denying for two days Ukrainian government claims of a Russian drone hitting the territory of Romania, a Nato member, at dawn on Monday.

Kyiv's foreign ministry said it was the latest sign that Moscow risked "the security of neighbouring countries, including Nato members".

Upstream, increased traffic at river ports including Izmail has transformed these backwaters into a region of geostrategic importance. Russia has stepped up attacks on the area to deny Kyiv shipping alternatives via the Danube after Moscow withdrew from an agreement on grain transit from its Black Sea ports, the main route for Ukrainian exports.

Russian warships have since fired warning shots towards at least one commercial vessel approaching Ukraine's Black Sea ports. Moscow said it considered those cargo ships legitimate targets, but Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Monday said he was "open to negotiations" about returning to the UN-brokered grain transport deal.

Direct hit: grain warehouses in Odesa, Ukraine, damaged by a Russian drone last month
Ukrainian Armed Forces/Reuters

At the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanța, shipping companies safely handle grain from Ukraine via the Danube and linked canals, but also on trucks and trains, transferring the goods on to ships headed towards the Bosphorus strait and the Mediterranean Sea.

But the recent explosion of a suspected Russian sea mine, which washed up on a beach near Constanța, highlights the continued perils stemming from a proximity to the war zone.

"We are very concerned," Tîlvăr said. "Russia continues to create new risks for miscalculation and escalation."

Romania had deployed 11 warships, two helicopters, six maritime search drones and three detachments of explosive-specialist divers off its coast, he said. Nato surveillance planes permanently patrol the Romanian frontier.

"We are prepared for any contingency," he said. Tîlvăr said that "no country that borders Ukraine could exclude entirely the possibility [of getting] hit by mistake".

> 'No country that borders Ukraine could exclude entirely the possibility [of getting] hit by mistake'

One of the few countries to consistently meet Nato's annual spending goal of 2 per cent of gross domestic product, Romania increased its defence budget to about $7.5bn or 2.5 per cent of GDP this year. It is set to open an F-16 training centre for Ukrainian pilots and is buying more US-made materiel for its own armed forces, Tîlvăr said.

Such spending would have seemed excessive in the past, but not after Russia brought the conflict zone so close to Romania's borders, said Sandu-Valentin Mateiu, a retired naval and intelligence officer focusing on Russia. While Romania has no land border with Russia, "our exclusive economic zone touches with Crimea's out at sea".

Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and used it as a launch pad for last year's invasion with missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Mateiu said Russia was testing legal grey areas in international maritime deals as it tries to destroy Ukraine's grain export channels. "They push hard with this tricky game," he said. "They will stop short of war [with Nato]."

Mateiu also noted that while Kyiv might want greater Nato involvement in the conflict, Bucharest was cautious. "As far as the Russians do not pose a real threat to human life or property on our territory, Bucharest will not look for escalation, even diplomatically."

He added: "As soon as a real threat affects us, Bucharest will act rapidly."

Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, a social democrat who took office in May, has pledged support for Ukraine and vowed to double the volume of grain transiting Romania from Ukraine. But Romania's crop is likely to exceed last year's and other exporters that use Constanța, such as Hungary and Serbia, may also produce bumper crops, raising doubts about the feasibility of the vow.

Viorel Panait, who owns Comvex, Constanța's largest grain terminal operator, said the entire logistics network needed to be renewed.

"In July, [the city] handled close to 70 per cent of the total amount of grain from Ukraine. That required us to be inventive," he said.

He spent €4mn on doubling the company's capacity to discharge the grain, and worked with the government on digital customs procedures to reduce waiting times from 36 hours to 30 minutes, cutting costs.

Recruiting more barge pilots in the delta could help, he added. "The pressure of cargo mounts. Ukrainian neighbours need to export those cargoes."

Ahead of next year's elections, the Ciolacu government also needed to consider growing resentment from Romanian farmers who struggle to compete with cheaper Ukrainian grain, and voter fatigue with the war, said Costin Ciobanu at the University of London.

"Farmers are an important constituency for Ciolacu," he said.

Civilian casualties

Rocket strike on market in Donetsk region kills at least 16

CHRISTOPHER MILLER
UKRAINE CORRESPONDENT
JOHN PAUL RATHBONE — KYIV

A daytime Russian rocket attack on a market has killed at least 16 in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka, said President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The strike in the Donetsk region yesterday came as US secretary of state Antony Blinken made a surprise visit to Kyiv to discuss the counteroffensive against Russian forces with senior Ukrainian officials.

"Russian terrorists have attacked a regular market, shops, and a pharmacy, killing innocent people. The number of casualties could rise further," Zelenskyy said on social media. "Anyone in the world who is still dealing with anything Russian simply ignores this reality."

Ukraine's prosecutor-general's office said another 31 were wounded in the attack and that people were still trapped under the rubble. It added that "20 shops, power lines, an administrative building and the fifth floor of a residential building were damaged". A subsequent fire destroyed several vehicles and eight commercial facilities.

Zelenskyy shared a video captured by a security camera showing several people walking around the market before the impact. The explosion from the rocket is seen ripping apart market stalls and spraying shrapnel and debris.

Kostyantynivka is 30km west of Bakhmut, a Russian-occupied city that has mostly been destroyed by more than a year of fighting. Kostyantynivka's proximity to the front line and a rail and road junction has made it an important logistical hub for Ukrainian forces, medical personnel and volunteers.

Zelenskyy has made several visits to the city to meet troops this year.

Ukrainian officials said overnight Russian missile and drone strikes killed at least one person in the Danube river port of Izmail in the southern Odesa region. Ukraine's air force said it had intercepted 23 out of 33 missiles and drones, which also targeted Kyiv.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Blinken said his visit was intended "to reinforce the unwavering US commitment to Ukraine". The secretary of state, who is expected to meet Zelenskyy and unveil a fresh $1bn assistance package, said he discussed the counteroffensive and reconstruction efforts.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba shared a photograph on social media of him and Blinken touring the Berkovetske cemetery in Kyiv, where they paid tribute to fallen soldiers.

Blinken has begun the two-day visit at a time when Kyiv's allies have started to rebuff fears that the counteroffensive is going slower than hoped and that western support is dwindling. To "obsess about how many hundreds of metres Ukraine has achieved today . . . [is] ridiculous when we don't know the timeline for this war", said a western official.

Ukrainian forces are making "incremental", "methodical" and "slower than expected" progress, the official added, but 270,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded, and its army is now half the size it was two years ago. The "main task now" is to offer more "equipment support", another official added.

See Opinion

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Economic woes

Scholz pledges to cut red tape in push for German growth

LAURA PITEL — BERLIN
MARTIN ARNOLD — FRANKFURT

Olaf Scholz has vowed to boost growth by banishing the "mildew of bureaucracy", as the German chancellor comes under intense pressure to tackle economic woes that are fuelling support for the far right.

Scholz yesterday called for a "Germany pact" between the government in Berlin, federal states, municipalities and the opposition to re-energise the country amid deep gloom about sluggish growth and the slow pace of reform.

"Only together will we shake off the mildew of bureaucracy, risk aversion and despondency that has settled on our country over years and decades," he said in remarks made to the Bundestag while sporting an eye patch he has worn since falling while jogging at the weekend.

Germany has suffered national angst in recent months amid warnings from the IMF and OECD it will be the slowest growing of the world's leading economies this year.

The Kiel Institute for the World Economy, a top German economic research body, blamed "weak industrial activity, the crisis in the construction sector and weak consumer spending" for cutting its forecasts yesterday, expecting the economy to shrink 0.5 per cent this year. Its summer forecast was for a 0.3 per cent contraction.

Scholz, whose fractious three-way "traffic light" coalition with the Greens and liberal Free Democrats has been suffering from infighting and a slump in the polls, said finding a new national momentum was the only way to defend the country against "those who want to draw political profit from scenarios of decline and panic mongering".

That was widely seen as a reference to the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which has witnessed a surge in support recently.

Uwe Jun, a political scientist at the University of Trier, said Scholz's plea for unity aimed to show leadership at a time when he was under attack for what critics say is his weak governing style.

Construction

Eurozone housebuilding falls at fastest pace since 2020

MARTIN ARNOLD — FRANKFURT

Housing construction in the eurozone has declined at the fastest pace since the pandemic started after rising interest rates and high inflation hit building activity, according to a survey.

Soaring borrowing costs, following an unprecedented rise in the European Central Bank's policy rates in the past year, have suppressed demand for new mortgages, reduced house prices and combined with higher inflation to raise the cost sharply of building new homes.

The HCOB eurozone construction purchasing managers' index, which tracks total activity in the sector, edged down from 43.5 in July to 43.4 in August, its lowest level so far this year, taking it further below the 50 level that separates growth from contraction.

Housebuilding declined at the fastest pace since April 2020, according to the survey, while commercial construction and infrastructure activity also declined but at a slower pace. The decline in overall construction was steepest in Germany, but it also fell in France and Italy.

"This is not a good time to be in construction in the eurozone," said Cyrus de la Rubia, chief economist at Hamburg Commercial Bank.

"Especially those companies focused on the housing sector find themselves in a tough spot."

The decline in building activity, which makes up about 9 per cent of eurozone output, will further weaken the outlook for the bloc's economy as economists warn it risks shrinking in the second half of the year.

House prices in the eurozone fell 0.9 per cent in the first quarter from a year ago, the first fall for more than a decade, reflecting a jump in borrowing costs. The average rate for a new fixed-term mortgage of at least 10 years has more than doubled from 1.32 per cent at the start of last year to 3.45 per cent in July, according to the ECB.

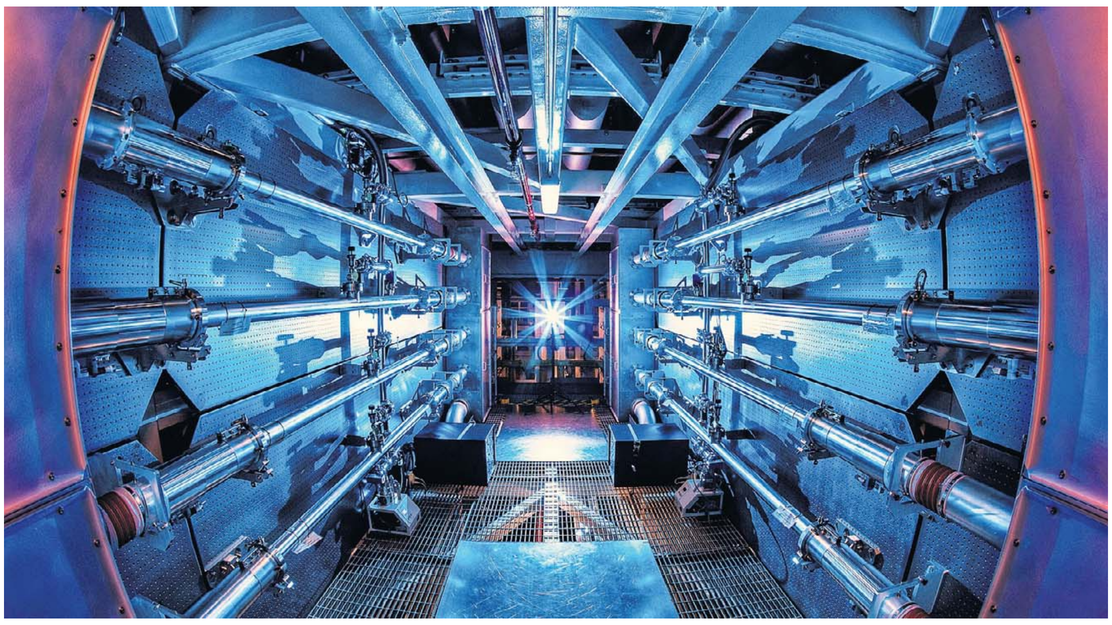
The PMI survey found new orders in the construction sector fell for the 17th consecutive month, although the decline was the softest since February.

INTERNATIONAL

Race to develop commercial fusion power heats up

Governments around world help private and public sector scientists collaborate in search for clean energy source

TOM WILSON — LONDON



Paradigm shift: achieving net energy gain has elevated fusion power from science fiction to something with real potential
Damien Jemison/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory/Reuters

From the US to Japan, governments are launching initiatives to help public and private sector scientists work in tandem, in some cases for the first time, on the tantalising goal of fusing atoms to produce safe, zero-emissions power.

Countries have taken different approaches to supporting the nascent sector but there is growing hope public-private collaboration can overcome the immense technical and funding barriers to turning recent scientific achievements into a global clean energy source.

"There's been a paradigm shift," said Richard Pearson, a co-founder of Japan's Kyoto Fusioneering, set up in 2019.

For decades, fusion research was driven by large, public sector programmes working towards scientific goals, but over the past 20 years commercial companies have moved in. The progress made by some of those businesses had forced governments to take notice and seek to support private enterprise, Pearson added. "That's why things are very different in 2023 than even in 2018."

The increased government attention follows two years of unprecedented private investment in companies and two breakthroughs by US scientists at a federal laboratory in the past eight months.

Total private investment in fusion has now surpassed $6bn, with most of the funding coming since 2021, according to the Fusion Industry Association (FIA), which represents the global industry.

Fusion energy, created when two hydrogen isotopes are fused to produce helium and neutrons, is still a long way from proving it can generate commercially viable power. In the breakthrough experiments in December and July, US government scientists produced slightly more energy than was in the laser used to trigger the reactions. Physicists estimate commercial fusion will require reactions that generate between 30 and 100 times the energy going in.

But the achievement of the long-sought goal of net energy gain has elevated fusion power from science fiction to something with genuine potential.

Fusion reactions create no radioactive waste, the hydrogen isotopes used can be sourced in large quantities, and a small cup of the fuel has the potential to power a house for hundreds of years.

The US government launched a "milestone" cost-sharing programme in May that selected eight companies, including Massachusetts-based Commonwealth Fusion Systems, to receive a combined $50mn of initial public funding to support the development of commercial fusion power. Under current plans, the programme can allocate up to $415mn before the end of 2027.

The UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and China are among the countries with at least one fusion start-up. But the private sector has grown fastest in the US. Of the 43 fusion companies worldwide, 25 are based in the US, according to the FIA, with 80 per cent of private investment raised by the sector going to US-based groups.

Andrew Holland, FIA executive director, said fusion companies had proliferated in the US due to a relative lack of public-sector research opportunities and a fundraising environment that made it comparatively easier for scientists to raise private investment for ambitious goals. Many of the companies had set aggressive timelines to deliver fusion power to the grid in the 2030s.

"I don't think it's necessarily true that there's more ideas for fusion commercialisation in the US, it's just that there's easier access to capital," he said.

The UK has been at the forefront of fusion science since the Joint European Torus, which remains the world's most powerful fusion machine, began operations at Culham in Oxfordshire in 1984.

The ageing device is due to be turned off next year, but three fusion companies, including UK-based groups Tokamak Energy and First Light Fusion, have plans to build prototypes at Culham to benefit from collaborating with the facility's publicly funded scientists.

"We want to make use of our heritage and expertise in the UK to be at the centre of a growing fusion industry," said Tim Bestwick, chief development officer at the UK Atomic Energy Authority, which runs Culham.

The UKAEA is advancing plans for a new national fusion demonstration plant to be built by 2040 and supporting the development of a wider fusion industry through an initial £42.1mn in funding for private companies.

Japan was taking a different approach, said Pearson. It published its first national fusion strategy in April and intends to use its existing manufacturing capabilities to develop the supply chains needed for a global fusion sector.

"Japan is outward looking when it comes to fusion and it is positioning itself to support those global players," Pearson added.

The EU is lagging behind its peers in supporting commercial initiatives. Instead, the bloc has focused its efforts on the flagship Iter project, becoming the biggest funder of the multilateral fusion experiment under construction in France at a cost of more than $23bn.

"The EU has been very slow in getting going on the private sector side," said Melanie Windridge, chief executive of advisory group Fusion Energy Insights. "How the research and expertise from the national laboratories is transferred into the private sector and into the commercial realm is very important."

'Things are very different in 2023 than even in 2018'

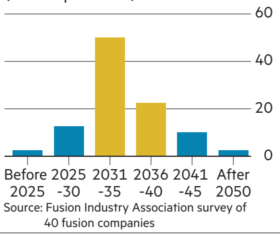
The "sleeping giant" of the fusion industry is Germany, according to the FIA's Holland. Publicly funded German scientists have been working on an experimental fusion machine, known as a stellarator, since the 1990s. But until this year, the government had shown little open support for the private sector.

Despite promising signs of increased public-private collaboration, there is still a huge gap between the funding available — either from government or investors — and what would be required to achieve fusion energy at scale.

Each fusion company was likely to need $300mn-$1bn to build a prototype and even more to develop demonstration plants, said Bestwick. "There remains an unanswered question about how the whole global fusion community is going to get the investment into fusion that's needed to make the rate of technical progress we all aspire to."

Companies are aiming for commercial fusion power in the 2030s

Q: when will the first fusion plant deliver electricity to the grid? (% of respondents)



Source: Fusion Industry Association survey of 40 fusion companies

Middle East

US and Palestinian officials to hold talks on Saudi-Israeli ties

SAMER AL-ATRUSH — DUBAI
JAMES SHOTTER — RAMALLAH
ANDREW ENGLAND — LONDON

Senior US and Palestinian officials have travelled to Riyadh for talks on a complex deal to establish diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel in return for Israeli concessions to the Palestinians and American security guarantees for the kingdom.

The talks have gained momentum since June but remain fraught with difficulties. These include doubt over whether Israel's far-right government would make significant concessions to the Palestinians, and Saudi demands from the US to secure a defence alliance and for it to be allowed to enrich uranium for a nuclear power plant.

Saudi Arabia refused to join several other Arab states when they normalised relations with Israel in 2020. Saudi officials had said they would demand bigger concessions, both from the US and Israel, in return for a deal that could reshape Israeli relations with Arab and Muslim countries, given the kingdom's status among Muslims.

The talks in Saudi Arabia this week prelude a possible meeting between US president Joe Biden and Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's day-to-day ruler, during this weekend's G20 summit in India.

Jake Sullivan, US national security adviser, said on Tuesday that the delegation, led by Middle East adviser Brett McGurk and assistant secretary of state Barbara Leaf, would discuss other issues with the Saudis, such as a truce in Yemen, and confirmed they would hold talks with the Palestinians, who came to discuss their position with Saudi Arabia ahead of any deal with Israel.

One Palestinian official said they wanted US support for full UN membership, where they have observer status.

Additional reporting by James Politi

See Opinion Letters page

Climate change

World endures hottest season on record

Warmest June to August since statistics started being collated in 1940

ALICE HANCOCK — BRUSSELS
ATTRACTA MOONEY — LONDON

The world has had its hottest season on record, the EU earth observation agency reported, as records in the 2023 northern hemisphere summer were "not just broken but smashed", scientists said.

June to August was the planet's warmest since records began in 1940, said the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

UN secretary-general António Guterres said the planet had "just endured a season of simmering" and called on global leaders to take urgent action.

"Climate breakdown has begun. Our climate is imploding faster than we can cope, with extreme weather events hitting every corner of the planet," he said.

The global average temperature was 16.77C, or 0.66C higher than the 1990-2020 average. This beat the previous record set in 2019 by 0.3C, with an average temperature of 16.48C. Every fraction of a degree of warming of the planet has an exponential effect.

Extreme weather patterns have concerned experts, who fear it indicates an acceleration of global warming. "Global temperature records continue to tumble in 2023, with the warmest August following the warmest July and June, leading to the warmest boreal summer in our data to 1940," said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of Copernicus.

"The scientific evidence is overwhelming; we will continue to see more climate records and more intense and frequent extreme weather events impacting society and ecosystems, until we stop emitting greenhouse gases."

> '2023 is the year that climate records were not just broken but smashed'
> Mark Maslin, UCL

This year could yet be the hottest on record, with the first eight months of the year ranking as the second-warmest, just 0.01C below 2016 as the warmest year so far, according to Copernicus.

In Europe, the temperature was 0.83C above average, making it the fifth warmest summer season, and it endured fatalities and losses, with Greece and Spain suffering wildfires and floods.

Mark Maslin, professor of climatology at University College London, said: "2023 is the year that climate records were not just broken but smashed."

"With record heatwaves in Europe, America and China, record ocean temperature and extreme melting of Antarctic sea ice we are now feeling the full impacts of climate change."

Copernicus said there was above-average rainfall over most of western Europe and Turkey, western and north-eastern North America, parts of Asia, Chile, Brazil, and north-western Australia, which in places led to flooding.

However, Iceland, northern Scandinavia, central Europe, large parts of Asia, Canada, southern North America and most of South America had drier-than-average conditions, it said, with these dry conditions leading to significant, unusual wildfires in some regions.

Following the same trend as in June and July, August was estimated to have been about 1.5C warmer than the pre-industrial average for 1850-1900.

A temporary rise of 1.5C in the average global temperature is distinct from the Paris Agreement goal of limiting long-term global warming to 1.5C by 2100.

On that basis, temperatures have risen at least 1.1C, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said.

See Opinion

East Asia. Weapons industry

North Korea exploits Russian need for arms

Kim tipped to meet Putin for talks after Kremlin defence minister visits Pyongyang

CHRISTIAN DAVIES AND SONG JUNG-A
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected five major munitions factories within a single week last month, calling on engineers and officials to increase production of weapons ranging from intercontinental ballistic missile launchers and cruise missile engines to sniper and assault rifles.

The tour of weapons manufacturers, which was widely publicised in North Korean state media and included stops at factories producing rocket shells and drone engines, was part of a summer campaign to promote the "modernisation" of his country's arms industry as Pyongyang seeks to cash in on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Kim is expected to travel to Russia this week to meet President Vladimir Putin and discuss weapons sales, according to a White House official. The planned trip follows a visit to Pyongyang in July by Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu, whom Kim treated to a personal tour of a weapons exhibition that featured combat and surveillance drones and the latest generation of the regime's ICBMs.

"Kim is trying to promote his weapons industry abroad, showing off its weapons production capacity and facilities to potential customers," said Yang Uk, a defence expert at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul.

"Russia has failed to secure enough weapons necessary for the Ukraine war, so it is keen to secure more of them from North Korea," Yang added, noting that Kim and Shoigu were accompanied by Aleksey Krivoruchko, Russia's deputy defence minister responsible for military procurement.

The US has grown increasingly alarmed by the possibility of an expanding weapons trade between North Korea and Russia at a potentially pivotal moment in the war in Ukraine, as Moscow seeks to repel a counteroffensive by Kyiv.

Firepower: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second right, and Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu, third right, visit an arms exhibition in Pyongyang in July
KCNA/AP

"Providing weapons to Russia . . . to try to conquer territory that belongs to another sovereign nation, this is not going to reflect well on North Korea and they will pay a price for this in the international community," US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Tuesday. "It says a lot that Russia is having to turn to a country like North Korea to seek to bolster its defence capacity."

Kim's expected trip to the eastern Russian port city of Vladivostok would mark the first time the North Korean leader has left the country since 2019. Russia also floated a proposal for North Korea to participate in joint naval drills alongside China, after Shoigu pledged to "strengthen co-operation" between the countries on his trip.

Yang noted North Korea was able to offer a range of weapons that could make a meaningful contribution on the battlefield in Ukraine, including ammunition, multiple rocket launchers and short-range ballistic missiles. The US has previously accused North Korea of supplying infantry rockets and missiles to Russian private militia Wagner Group.

Kim "wants to send a message that North Korea can produce and supply these weapons", said Yang. "I think the deal has already been done. That's why Kim is visiting Russia."

> 'The deal has already been done. That's why Kim is visiting Russia'

News website Daily NK said Pyongyang was prioritising older arms for export as it upgraded its own weapons systems. Analysts said Russia could offer grain, oil, military technology as well as hard currency as payment.

"They must be closely discussing these things at the moment," said Cheong Seong-chang, senior research fellow at the Sejong Institute think-tank in Seoul.

North Korea has a long history of defence co-operation with the Soviet Union, its former patron, and many North Korean rockets and weapons systems closely resemble or even duplicate Soviet designs, including some still deployed by Russia.

The North Korean KN-23 short-range ballistic missile, which was on display for Shoigu, is regarded by experts as near identical to the Russian Iskander missile, which Moscow has used to bombard Ukrainian territory.

"If [Russia] can get more sophisticated weapons from North Korea at cheaper prices, there is no reason why Moscow would not do it," said Yang.

Analysts said Kim's tour of North Korean munitions factories also served to remind the US, South Korea and other adversaries of Pyongyang's success in developing formidable weapons systems despite international sanctions and its extreme self-isolation during the coronavirus pandemic.

Cheong said Kim might attempt to leverage his relationship with Putin to secure Russian assistance for the next generation of North Korea's defence assets, including nuclear-powered submarines and military reconnaissance satellites.

North Korea made two failed attempts this year to launch a spy satellite into space.

Cheong added that while China, which is traditionally North Korea's closest partner, remained wary about being seen to facilitate Pyongyang's military ambitions, Russia's break with the west over its invasion of Ukraine meant Moscow no longer had any such inhibitions.

"China doesn't want to see its relations with the US deteriorate further, so it is reluctant to expand military co-operation with North Korea," said Cheong. "But Russia has no reason to curry favour with the US."

Additional reporting by Colby Smith in Washington

Economic performance

IMF highlights impact of organised crime on Latin America

MICHAEL STOTT — BOGOTÁ

Transnational criminal gangs have become such a serious problem in Latin America they are damaging the region's overall economic performance, according to an IMF official.

Rodrigo Valdés, the fund's western hemisphere director, said governments in the region needed to work together to fight the illegal groups, whose activities such as drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and extortion are damaging growth and investment and blighting the lives of citizens.

Global demand for cocaine has fuelled the rise of bigger, more powerful drug cartels across Latin America. The gangs, some of which have links to organised crime in Europe, the US and Africa, have recently expanded smuggling routes, causing bloodshed in the region's formerly more stable countries such as Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Research by the fund, to be published at its annual meeting next month in Marrakech, showed that "having a higher murder rate is more than correlated [with] . . . lower economic performance, in terms of growth, in terms of investment", Valdés said, noting that polls across the region showed rising crime to be the first or second biggest concern for citizens.

"It's not a global concern, but for [Latin America], this has to be a priority," he pointed out.

Valdés, a Chilean economist and former finance minister who took up the IMF post in May, said the crime wave was also related to problems in society such as "horrible" income distribution and a wider lack of opportunities, but added: "We have to work on the efficiency of the state to control crime."

He praised LatAm nations in a blog this week for responding "appropriately" to the pandemic, saying governments spent more to tackle Covid-19, like other countries, but then withdrew the additional spending more promptly, helping to avoid excessive debt and control inflation.

He also praised regional central banks for acting with "exceptional swiftness" to raise interest rates earlier and higher than elsewhere.

But governments now needed to ensure a stable and predictable investment environment and boost productivity via increased spending on health and education for the region to benefit from the transition to clean energy and the relocation of production closer to big consumer markets, Valdés added.

"Energy and climate change is an issue that will make the region very important," he said. "We have the mining side and green hydrogen, and the nearshoring of production chains because of geopolitical and security considerations.

"We have to do things [to benefit]. It's very important to think about how to have regulatory rules that are more coherent and stable," he said, adding that investors needed reassurance that rules would not be arbitrarily changed.

Argentina is the IMF's biggest single debtor with a $44bn bailout programme, a successor to a failed $57bn bailout plan agreed in 2018.

Stimulus calls

Xi places China's security ahead of tackling economic woes

EDWARD WHITE — SEOUL
SUN YU — SHANGHAI

China's complex economic problems, including property sector turmoil, rising local government debt and soft consumption, have sparked calls for Xi Jinping to unleash billions of dollars to arrest a slide into deflation and prop up a weakening currency.

Yet the Chinese president has refrained from providing a broad-based stimulus, the latest example of how his focus on domestic and external security is shaping his response to economic problems, analysts said.

According to experts in Chinese politics and economics as well as government advisers in Beijing, the leadership is comfortable with slower growth rates and is wary of pulling the trigger on any big changes that would add to government debt or risk instability in the financial system.

"If you decide to dramatically spend more money on something, you have to cut back on something else . . . it is an extremely hard discussion to have given that you are not going to cut technology investment, national defence or internal security," said Victor Shih, a professor of Chinese political economy at the University of California San Diego.

Yu Jie, a China expert at the UK think-tank, Chatham House, said a close reading of Chinese government announcements and speeches over recent months showed the leadership was clear-eyed about the severity of the economic downturn.

But Beijing's priority in the face of an increasingly hostile external environment had changed, she said. "It is no longer about double-digit economic growth but rather seeking security, that broader sense of scientific and economic self-reliance."

In recent weeks, authorities unveiled a series of interventions designed to shore up growth, particularly in the property sector.

On Friday, the People's Bank of China cut the amount of foreign currency that financial institutions are required to hold in reserve, providing further support for the renminbi, which has fallen more than 5 per cent against the dollar this year. Teams of central bankers and other financial experts have also been dispatched to the most debt-laden provinces to restructure liabilities.

And yet after data for July disappointed, economists have been trimming their forecasts for gross domestic product growth to below the government's target of 5 per cent while calling for stronger stimulus measures.

According to a government adviser, who asked not to be named, the priority of Chinese central bankers is controlling risks, not boosting home sales. "The central government is well aware that the real estate sector will inevitably shrink," the person said, adding that

Real estate: Beijing has unveiled interventions recently, designed to shore up the property sector

Beijing saw the adjustment as necessary over the long term as China adjusted its growth model away from property and infrastructure to consumer services and high-tech manufacturing.

Liqian Ren, who manages China investments at US fund WisdomTree Asset Management, said Beijing believed expanding central government stimulus to the scale seen in the US in response to the 2008 financial crisis was likely to spark higher inflation and destabilise the renminbi.

"The US is exceptional in being able to use fiscal stimulus without significantly impacting other areas," she said, noting the US dollar's status as a global reserve currency.

One critical piece missing from the government response is an attempt to repair the administration's relationship with private sector entrepreneurs. Andy Rothman, an investment strategist at the Matthews Asia fund, said that while fears of impending economic doom were overblown, "the biggest problem" was that confidence among entrepreneurs had never recovered from Xi's "common prosperity" campaign. The policy, rolled out in 2021 in the name of reducing social inequality, hammered confidence and wiped trillions from companies' share prices.

Despite the onset of such a complicated set of economic problems, experts noted that Xi's grip on power remained unaffected.

Lance Gore, an expert on Chinese politics and economy at the National University of Singapore, said even a deeper downturn might not alarm Xi, who last year secured a precedent-breaking third five-year term as head of the party, and who has installed a leadership team synonymous with one quality above all else: loyalty.

Under-50s

Cases of early onset cancer rise 80% over three decades

SARAH NEVILLE — LONDON

Cases of cancer in the under-50s have surged almost 80 per cent around the world over the past three decades, a survey has found, fuelling a drive to discover the causes of a trend that is placing an increasing burden on health systems.

Breast cancer accounted for the highest number of "early onset" cases in 2019. But cancers of the windpipe and prostate have risen the fastest since 1990, according to an analysis of the Global Burden of Disease 2019 Study, which covered 29 cancers in 204 countries and regions.

The findings, in the journal BMJ Oncology, highlight the need for improvements in early detection and diagnosis, as well as greater research into the causes of early onset cancer in order to find more effective treatments.

Lung, bowel and stomach cancers were among the forms of the disease usually more common in older adults that were exacting the heaviest death toll in younger age groups. The researchers noted that the US Preventive Services Task Force, a group of independent experts, had recommended that colorectal cancer screening should now begin at 45.

The findings, published late on Tuesday, "upend received wisdom about the types of cancers typically affecting the under-50s", the journal said.

New cancer diagnoses among the under-50s totalled 3.26mn, up 79 per cent on the 1990 figure, the BMJ said, although some experts warned that the size of the population had increased greatly over the period and the rise might also be partly attributable to improvements in reporting.

The researchers estimated the global number of new early onset cancer cases and associated deaths would rise a further 31 per cent and 21 per cent respectively in 2030, with the 40-49 age bracket considered at the highest risk.

Although researchers have not found a definitive explanation for the increase, doctors from the Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast said genetic factors were likely to play a role. They also emphasised the probable significance of unhealthy lifestyles.

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Debt deluge Barclays, Nestlé and Ferrovial among those tapping investors in a hectic week for corporate bond issues ➔ PAGE 12

Companies & Markets

Hedge funds' leverage poses stability risks, watchdog says

- FSB scrutiny amid bond bet worries
- Concerns over 'synthetic' borrowing

LAURA NOONAN AND COSTAS MOURSELAS — LONDON

Financial policymakers have singled out a group of hedge funds as a potential source of market instability in an escalation of concerns about the impact of their bets on bonds.

The Financial Stability Board, comprised of the world's top finance ministers, central bankers and regulators, warned yesterday that some hedge funds had "very high levels of synthetic leverage".

Synthetic leverage refers to debt created by the use of derivatives or other complex financial instruments that often does not show on balance sheets.

The FSB did not name specific institutions, but referred to strategies related to recent market ructions, such as the default of Archegos Capital Management in 2021 and turmoil in the US Treasuries market this year.

> 'A few prime brokers dominate [the lending] and this concentration could amplify shocks'

Regulators find synthetic leverage more problematic to evaluate than outright borrowing because it is more difficult to measure institutions' exposures and liabilities can rise quickly.

The policymakers also said hedge funds could have "hidden leverage" because they typically borrow from several prime brokers to increase the size of their bets. "A few prime brokers dominate the provision of lending to hedge funds, and this concentration could amplify shocks and propagate them through the financial system," it said.

The role played by hedge funds and other financial institutions such as asset managers and pension funds in bond markets has come under increased scrutiny since March 2020, when US government bond yields dramatically increased as demand evaporated.

The Archegos default also underlined how leverage could cascade through markets and the banking system when the fund's series of highly concentrated bets on share price moves soured.

The FSB said markets remained "vulnerable" to "further liquidity strains" from so-called non-bank financial institutions. "Within the hedge fund sector, there is a group of funds, typically pursuing macro and relative-value strategies, with very high levels of synthetic leverage," it added.

Macro hedge funds take bets on the direction of assets or interest rates. Relative-value ones aim to exploit market inefficiencies such as the difference between the price of futures contracts and the underlying asset.

Hedge funds' leveraged bets on bonds were blamed in March this year for exacerbating turbulence in the US Treasuries market, prompting Gary Gensler, chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to say that funds should face closer scrutiny.

However, even as regulators threatened greater oversight, exposures continued to grow in some areas of the market. A paper published by the US Federal Reserve last week showed that hedge funds' notional short positions in five- and 10-year US Treasuries were above all-time highs as of May 9.

An executive at a firm that makes big bets on bond markets argued that hedge funds had "overfished" in the market, and warned that regulatory caps on the leverage these funds could access through the repo market would be next.

The FSB has already begun work on leverage in non-banks and said yesterday the area would be a "key area of policy focus in 2024".

Bullish biotech Moderna's latest vaccine helps protect against highly mutated Covid variant

Moderna says its updated vaccine creates 'a strong human immune response' to the variant — Sean Gallup/Getty Images

HANNAH KUCHLER — LONDON

Early studies have provided hope that the newest Covid-19 vaccines will help protect people against the highly mutated new variant BA.2.86, which scientists had feared could prove dangerous.

Moderna said yesterday that a lab test showed its latest vaccine, which was designed to tackle the prevalent XBB.1.5 variant, also elicits antibodies to the more recently emerged strain.

The Boston-based biotech's announcement follows research from scientists at Harvard and Sweden's Karolinska Institute that suggested that people who had been infected with the XBB.1.5 variant could also make antibodies against BA.2.86.

However, there is less information available about whether people who had received previous boosters targeted at other strains, or had infections caused by other variants, are as well protected against BA.2.86.

Stephen Hoge, president of Moderna, said that its updated Covid-19 vaccine creates a "strong human immune response" against the variant, increasing existing antibodies that tackle the virus almost nine-fold.

He added that it provides a similar response against other emerging variants, EG.5 and FL1.5.1.

"These data confirm that our updated Covid-19 vaccine will continue to be an important tool for protection as we head into the fall vaccination season," he said.

Pfizer and BioNTech have not yet published data on whether their updated vaccine is effective against BA.2.86.

Shares in Moderna fell 1.8 per cent while Pfizer was down 1.9 per cent and BioNTech also down 1.9 per cent in morning trading in New York.

The US is planning to start rolling out updated boosters targeting XBB.1.5 in the coming weeks after the Food and Drug Administration gives its approval. EU and UK regulators have approved new boosters, with the UK recommending them for the over-75s and the most vulnerable.

England has brought forward its Covid-19 vaccination campaign to start on September 11, three weeks earlier than planned, because of worries about the potential danger posed by BA.2.86.

The UK Health Security Agency said last week that it had "limited information" on the new variant.

Research by the Barouch Laboratory at Harvard found that BA.2.86 elicited fewer antibodies than the variant BA.2, which was prevalent last year, but that an XBB.1.5 infection increased the antibody response, suggesting that the tweaked vaccines may offer more protection.

Additional reporting by Jamie Smyth in New York

WeWork seeks to renegotiate almost all of its office leases

ANDREW EDGECLIFFE-JOHNSON AND JOSHUA CHAFFIN — NEW YORK

WeWork is seeking to renegotiate nearly all of its leases weeks after the SoftBank-backed office-space group warned of "substantial doubt" that it could continue as a going concern.

The New York company's drive to cut lease costs it described as "dramatically out of step with current market conditions" threatens a commercial real estate industry reeling from the excess capacity that followed a pandemic-driven surge in working from home.

As of June, WeWork was in 777 locations in 39 countries, with long-term lease obligations of more than $13bn, mostly coming due in or after 2028.

WeWork announced the plan after telling its landlords that they were "strongly advised" to join a listen-only call yesterday at which it would share an important business update.

David Tolley, chief executive, told landlords that WeWork expected to exit some "unfit and underperforming locations" but would stay in most buildings.

In a statement after the call, he said that WeWork was "taking immediate action to permanently fix our inflexible and high-cost lease portfolio" that he described as a legacy of "period of unsustainable hypergrowth".

WeWork has been trying to cut its long-term lease liabilities, which exceeded $18bn at the time Adam Neumann quit as chief executive after a failed initial listing attempt in 2019.

Landlords have been looking to reduce their exposure to a company that has an outsized share of the office market in cities from New York to London and has appointed a series of bankruptcy experts in recent weeks.

Real estate executives say that WeWork is in many lower-quality New York buildings, so its troubles may contribute to a widening divide between the most modern and more dated sites.

Shares in WeWork, which gained a public listing through a merger with a blank-cheque company in 2021, have fallen 98 per cent in the past year. Having once had a private market valuation of $47bn, its equity is now valued below $200mn. The shares were 3 per cent lower at midday yesterday.

The lease renegotiations would have "no impact" on WeWork's day-to-day operations, Tolley said.

Additional reporting by Akila Quinio in London

Legal Notices

In the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands
Financial Services Division
Cause No. Fsd: 256 Of 2023 (DDJ)
In the matter of Section 36 of the Exempted Limited Partnership Act (2021 Revision) and Section 129 of the Companies Act (2023 Revision)
And in the Matter of
BUSINESS FINANCE OPPORTUNITIES FUND L.P.
(In Voluntary Liquidation)

TAKE NOTICE that Mr Christopher Kennedy and Mr Barry Lynch, both of Alvarez & Marsal Cayman Islands Limited, Flagship Building, PO Box 2507, 142 Seafarers Way, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-1104, Cayman Islands, in their capacities as joint voluntary liquidators of Business Finance Opportunities Fund L.P. (in Voluntary Liquidation), an exempted limited partnership constituted on 8 January 2009 pursuant to the Exempted Limited Partnership Act (as revised) of the Cayman Islands with registration number 31183 (the **"Partnership"**) (the **"Petitioners"**), have presented a petition to the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands (**"Cayman Court"**) for orders, inter alia, that the voluntary liquidation of the Partnership continue under the supervision of the Cayman Court and the appointment of the Petitioners as joint official liquidators of the Partnership. Copies of the petition and supporting affidavits may be obtained free of charge from the Petitioners' attorneys, Walkers, of 190 Elgin Avenue, George Town, Grand Cayman KY1-9008, Cayman Islands.

The Petitioners invite any partners or creditors of the Partnership who wish to oppose to the relief sought by the petition and/or wish to attend or be heard on the petition to give details of such opposition and/or notice of such intention to the Petitioners by email to wpaterson@alvarezandmarsal.com within 14 days of this advertisement.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in the absence of any objection and/or notice of intention to appear from any partner or creditor of the Partnership being received by the Petitioners within 14 days of this advertisement, the Petitioners intend to seek the relief sought by the petition on the papers (without an oral hearing).

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EUROPE
Richard Milne

Artificial intelligence, says Nicolai Tangen, head of Norway's $1.4tn oil fund, is like being "in a rocket on the way into space . . . It's hugely exciting but it's also scary."

Stretching the metaphor to its limits, the head of the world's largest sovereign wealth fund adds: "We hope we're in Apollo 11, not Challenger. The mission statement is to return safely."

All this might just seem to be a glib soundbite, but the Norwegian fund is among the most advanced of any of the world's big traditional investors in publicly articulating its thoughts on AI.

This is not just about the balance between risk and opportunity from AI but what it thinks the companies in which it invests should be doing. As the importance of AI grows, the oil fund's stance will be well worth following.

The fund last month aired its first thoughts on how companies should use AI responsibly. The issue has taken on particular importance for the fund, and many other investors, because of an extraordinary run for just a few companies, partly owing to AI.

Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta, Microsoft, Nvidia and Tesla — just seven names out of more than 9,000 companies in which the fund invests — account for 12 per cent of its portfolio. In the first half of this year, those seven brought it one-third of the fund's return. That concentration makes the likes of Tangen nervous, even if there is relatively little he can do about it as the fund is all but an index investor.

Instead, the fund is trying to use its heft — it owns on average about 1.5 per cent of every listed company worldwide — to improve all its investments' use of AI by focusing on three areas.

The first is ensuring that boards are accountable for the responsible development and use of AI.

Here, Tangen is damning. "Boards are absolutely not on top of this," he says.

Given how many companies have long struggled to get enough expertise on cyber security, AI is likely to prove an even tougher ask. The oil fund could vote against those that do nothing, Tangen adds.

> 'If you don't think there are opportunities with AI, then in my mind you are a complete moron'
> Nicolai Tangen

The second relates to how transparent groups are on their use of AI and how they explain how those systems have been designed and tested. As well as the tech industry itself, the fund is paying particular attention to those sectors using AI with consumers such as healthcare, financial and consumer goods.

The final element is risk management. The fund argues that companies should be proactive, and ensure outside verification and auditing of their AI systems and risk management processes. Companies are nowhere near being good enough on any of the three points so far, says Carine Smith Ihenacho, the fund's chief governance and compliance officer, who says she also worries about AI's potential wide-reaching effects on democracy and how markets function.

Underpinning it all is a desire for state regulation of the AI sector. Tech companies may be talking about state regulation but Tangen argues that they "will not self-regulate away important revenue streams", making it important for governments to step in.

The fund's demands may be relatively broad-brush, and, in the demand for global regulation, even utopian. But it is important for investor views to be heard as AI seeps into ever more corners of the economy.

By setting out its thoughts clearly, the fund can more easily sanction errant companies at annual meetings — as it already does to many of its large holdings on everything from pay to splitting the role of chief executive and chair. It will be interesting to see who it votes against first.

But the fund is not just interested in AI as an owner.

Tangen is hoping to use the technology to improve its trading and internal productivity significantly. By using AI to help managers spend less time on "boring things", he has set a target of boosting internal productivity by 10 per cent (a number plucked from thin air, he blithely admits).

AI is also helping with trading, reducing the cost and frequency of buying and selling. The fund is using it to help decide when to trade and to eliminate practices where it buys and then sells shares quickly because of portfolio rebalancing requirements.

Tangen is clearly bullish: "If you don't think there are opportunities with AI, then in my mind you are a complete moron."

But to avoid an AI crash landing may require Norway's oil fund and other investors to worry about what could go wrong just as much.

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Riyadh swoops on stake in Telefónica

Saudi Arabia-owned STC to face Madrid's scrutiny over acquisition of 9.9% holding

BARNEY JOPSON — MADRID
SAMER AL-ATRUSH — DUBAI

Spain has vowed to defend its "strategic interests" after Saudi Telecom Company moved to take a stake of almost 10 per cent in Telefónica, one of the country's biggest companies.

STC revealed late on Tuesday that it was acquiring a 9.9 per cent stake valued at €2.1bn, marking the latest foray by state-owned Gulf telecoms companies into Europe. The group, which is majority-owned by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, only informed Telefónica and the Spanish government about its actions shortly before releasing the public announcement.

STC's plan would catapult it past CaixaBank and BBVA — two pillars of corporate Spain with large stakes in the group — to become Telefónica's largest shareholder. But STC said it was not seeking a controlling stake.

Nadia Calviño, one of Spain's deputy prime ministers, sought to strike a diplomatic tone in comments on the move, reminding STC it needed Madrid's approval while also emphasising Spain's openness to foreign investment.

She said the government was analysing the deal and that it would "apply all the necessary mechanisms, always with the defence of Spain's strategic interests in mind".

Telefónica shares initially jumped more than 2 per cent yesterday, but gave up their gains by early afternoon, leaving the company valued at just over €22bn.

STC said in a press release that it had acquired 4.9 per cent of Telefónica's shares as well as "financial instruments giving economic exposure to a further 5 per cent of Telefónica's share capital".

It plans to convert those instruments into shares but needs official approval because the law requires government authorisation for any foreign investor taking a stake of 5 per cent or more in certain "strategic" defence companies. Telefónica falls into that category because it has businesses related to national security and cyber defence.

Calviño said the authorities would consider a variety of factors, including Telefónica's ties with the defence sector, the exercise of voting rights and the participation of shareholders on its board.

STC chief executive Olayan Alwetaid said in the statement that the company viewed the purchase as a "compelling investment opportunity". Telefónica took note of "STC's friendly approach and its support [of] the management team, Telefónica's strategy and ability to create value".

Spain is still Telefónica's biggest market, accounting for 27 per cent of its revenue in the past quarter, followed by Brazil, at 20 per cent, Germany at 18 per cent and the UK — where it part owns Virgin Media O2 — at 13 per cent.

STC said the Madrid-based company had "a unique portfolio of best-in-class infrastructure assets" and was developing technology in areas such as cognitive intelligence and the internet of things.

STC is Saudi Arabia's largest communications company, with more than 80 per cent of the market share. It earned $17bn in revenues last year.

Additional reporting by Ivan Levingston in London and Simeon Kerr in Dubai

See Lex

Energy

Enbridge bets big with $14bn deal for three Dominion gas distributors

MYLES MCCORMICK — HOUSTON
JAMES FONTANELLA-KHAN — NEW YORK

Dominion Energy, one of the biggest US utilities, has agreed to sell its natural gas distribution business to Canadian pipeline group Enbridge in a $14bn deal that highlights big shifts in North America's fuels sector.

Enbridge will purchase Dominion's three natural gas distribution companies for about $9.4bn plus debt in an all-cash deal, making it the biggest gas utility group in North America.

The transaction is significant as it underlines two distinct investment approaches as the rush to decarbonise the US economy gathers pace.

Enbridge is best known for shipping oil, operating the world's longest crude and liquids pipeline system. After buying Dominion's gas utilities, Enbridge's asset mix will be split evenly between gas and renewables and liquids, the company said.

Dominion will be left to focus on its state-regulated electric utilities at a time when US power consumption is growing, sparked by factors including the shift to battery vehicles.

"Data centre expansion, bolstered by artificial intelligence . . . along with electrification, and general economic activity are driving the most significant demand growth in our company's history and shows no signs of abating," said Robert Blue, Dominion chief executive.

> 'Adding natural gas utilities of this scale and quality . . . is a once in a generation opportunity'

Greg Ebel, Enbridge chief executive, said natural gas utilities had become "must-have infrastructure for providing safe, reliable and affordable energy".

"Adding natural gas utilities of this scale and quality, at a historically attractive multiple, is a once in a generation opportunity," he said.

Enbridge shares were down 5.5 per cent in afternoon trading yesterday, while Dominion had fallen 0.6 per cent.

The persistence of gas in the fuel mix has become a theme in recent transactions. Oil-focused pipeline group Magellan Midstream Partners has pointed to gas's "more powerful growth engine" as it pursues a sale to the gas-heavy Oneok.

TC Energy, the Canadian pipeline group behind the aborted plan to build the Keystone XL crude pipeline, said in July it was spinning off its oil transportation unit to concentrate on shipping gas.

Enbridge transports about 30 per cent of the oil produced in North America and 20 per cent of the gas consumed on the continent. It operates the third-biggest gas utility by customer numbers, all based in Canada.

After absorbing East Ohio Gas Company, Public Service Company of North Carolina and Questar Gas Company, the companies involved in the deal, and their 3mn customers across Ohio, North Carolina, Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, it will become the largest.

Dominion's decision to sell comes as part of a business review it launched last year after its stock price was hit in part by rising inflation. The Virginia-based utility has sought to free capital by offloading "non-core" assets.

See Lex

Banks

NatWest picks ex-Mastercard boss to take reins as chair

SIDDHARTH VENKATARAMAKRISHNAN AND LUCY FISHER — LONDON

NatWest has appointed former Mastercard boss Rick Haythornthwaite as its new chair, the latest development in a period of leadership turmoil at the bank as it hunts for its new permanent chief executive.

Haythornthwaite is set to join the UK lender's board in January before taking over in April when Sir Howard Davies's term expires. A Treasury insider said Haythornthwaite was seen in UK government circles as "widely respected and experienced".

The government still holds a 38.7 per cent stake in the bank, formerly known as Royal Bank of Scotland, after bailing it out during the financial crisis.

"I am inheriting a very different NatWest compared to my predecessor; one that is more customer-focused, financially resilient and well positioned to maintain its recent strong performance," said Haythornthwaite, who is chair of the AA and Ocado Group.

He will arrive at a critical time for NatWest, after a summer of discontent triggered by its private bank Coutts's decision to close the bank accounts of Nigel Farage, the former Ukip leader.

Chief executive Alison Rose departed in July after admitting to inaccurately briefing a BBC journalist about the reason behind the closures, which an incendiary dossier obtained by the Brexiter revealed was due in large part to his politics. Coutts's chief executive Peter Flavel left a day later, after taking responsibility for the decision to close the accounts.

One of Haythornthwaite's first jobs will be to lead the search for Rose's replacement. Former Bank of Ireland chief executive Francesca McDonagh is seen as one of the potential candidates.

Haythornthwaite's appointment was first reported by Sky News.

Haythornthwaite was Mastercard's global chair for 14 years until 2020 and served as chair of energy company Centrica from 2014-19. He is expected to stay on as chair of Ocado.

The Financial Conduct Authority, which will have to approve the new chair, declined to comment.

Additional reporting by Laura Noonan and Laura Onita

Service line

Disney clears TV access for tennis stars

Coco Gauff of the US in action against Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Tuesday — Clive Brunskill/Getty Images

Disney is quietly giving players at this week's US Open direct access to the tournament via its ESPN channel during a dispute with pay-television provider Charter Communications that has blacked out programming for millions of subscribers.

Almost 15mn US pay-TV customers have been unable to view Disney networks, including ESPN, since Thursday because of the battle with Charter over fees to carry the programming.

The spat has pitted Charter, a traditional cable carrier fighting to hold on to subscribers after years of cord-cutting, against Disney, the media titan that in recent years has joined the push for direct-to-consumer streaming, and whose ESPN remains a cornerstone of US sports programming.

Caught in the middle have been some of the best tennis players in the world, who cannot view opponents' matches while in New York.

"I don't know if it's legal or illegal, but I have to find a way because I cannot watch [the matches] on TV," Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion, said late on Monday after advancing to the quarterfinals. "I got internet — how do you call it? — pirate websites, I watch tennis there. I have no other choice."

ESPN said on Tuesday that the network has started providing secure logins to The Walt Disney Company app to some US Open players who have requested access, including Medvedev.

The company has also provided logins to some members of the media in the US covering the tournament. Disney had to get a login for John McEnroe, the ESPN tennis analyst and former star player who tested positive for Covid-19 last week and was forced to miss some early-round matches in person.

> 'I got internet – how do you call it? – pirate websites, I watch tennis there. I have no choice'

"He couldn't watch and he was going nuts," the company said.

While carriage disputes between media and cable companies are common, the timing for the current fight comes during one of the busiest weeks in the US for live sport, a cornerstone of cable programming.

Aside from the US Open, the most important domestic tennis fixture of the year, this week also marks the return of college football and the beginning of the National Football League season today. Disney and ESPN hold the rights to Monday Night Football, consistently one of the top-rated weekly broadcasts of the year.

Charter declined to comment. It previously blamed the continuing dispute on the loss of cable subscribers coupled with the shift by media companies to move programming to direct-to-consumer platforms.

"We have reached a precipice and must chart a path to change," the company said in a statement.

On Monday, Disney said it was "hopeful Charter is ready to have more conversations that will restore access to its content to Spectrum customers as quickly as possible". Disney urged affected subscribers to consider signing up for Hulu, the streaming service in which it has a majority stake, along with Comcast.

The United States Tennis Association, which administers the US Open, declined to comment.

Last week it said that it was "disappointed" for fans and viewers who have lost access to ESPN and hoped that Disney and Charter could reach an agreement "as quickly as possible".

Telecoms

Virgin Media O2 to buy Russian-backed Upp

DANIEL THOMAS

Virgin Media O2 has struck a deal to acquire UK broadband provider Upp that oligarch-backed investment company LetterOne was forced to sell on national security grounds.

The UK telecoms group will initially buy the business before selling it on to a joint venture called Nexfibre between its owner Liberty Global, Spain's Telefónica and InfraVia Capital Partners within the next year. The UK government ordered the sale of Upp late last year after deciding LetterOne's ownership of the company was a "risk to national security".

LetterOne is not the subject of sanctions but some of its founders, including Russian oligarchs Mikhail Fridman and Petr Aven, have been under sanctions in various jurisdictions.

Proceeds from the sale of the business, which was announced yesterday, will not go to any individual under sanctions. The deal has been struck in the "high tens of millions of pounds", according to people familiar with the terms, although the companies declined to provide a value.

LetterOne moved swiftly to sever links to its owners, including freezing their shares and dividends, after Russia invaded Ukraine, to prevent similar action against the investment company.

LetterOne acquired Upp in 2021 with plans to create a £1bn broadband network to compete with BT. LetterOne has continued to invest in the unit despite the sanctions on some of its founders, but was taken by surprise with the order to sell the business last year.

The order was one of the few uses so far of the UK's National Security and Investment Act, which came into effect last year. The government has told Upp to complete a security audit of the broadband network before any sale.

LetterOne said: "We strongly disagree with the government's decision to force the sale of Upp and we will continue to challenge it. But we have always been committed to safeguarding the future of Upp."

The deal is one of the first big signs of consolidation among "altnet" broadband providers by the large infrastructure groups that many analysts have been predicting.

Matthew Howett, analyst at telecoms research group Assembly, said that consolidation had been inevitable as new sources of funding dried up.

Upp has about 4,000 retail and business customers and offers broadband services to about 175,000 premises in the east of England.

Virgin Media O2 and Nexfibre said that more than £350mn would be invested to build out the network to more than 500,000 premises by 2026.

Lutz Schüler, chief executive of Virgin Media O2, said that his group and Nexfibre had a "clear strategy" to be the country's biggest fibre challenger, offering greater competition against the BT status quo.

Andrea Salvato, chair of Nexfibre, said that the deal would help "build and expand our network in suburban and semi-rural areas, closing the digital divide and boosting local economies".

Media

Schillings plans PR launch for 'complex' age

DANIEL THOMAS

Schillings, the combative British libel law firm, will set up its own PR and communications agency for clients seeking a different way to manage their reputation.

George Pascoe-Watson, chair of the UK PR firm Portland and a former political editor of the Sun newspaper, has been poached to head the new business alongside Victoria O'Byrne, a former communications director for the Prince and Princess of Wales and for Sir Richard Branson at Virgin Group.

Both will become equity partners alongside Schillings in the company, which has not yet been given a name.

Schillings has carved out a reputation in the City for taking on the press in defence of clients facing scrutiny over their private lives or businesses. Many journalists have been on the receiving end of a letter from the law firm, which has represented executives such as Sir Philip Green and sports people and celebrities such as cyclist Lance Armstrong, Meghan Markle and actor Johnny Depp.

The firm has recently been shifting its focus to become a broader reputation management business. Corporate probes, cyber security and military specialists have been added to its expertise in defamation and libel law.

The law firm said on Tuesday night that the new business was being "built in response to an increasingly complex world where licences to operate for individuals and organisations have become dependent on reputation, now made in both the court of law and the court of public opinion".

The law firm has built a reputation in the City for battling the press

It pointed to the need to address "intensified scrutiny, digital and privacy threats, smear campaigns, complex reputation risks and overnight cancel culture, supercharged by the ultra-high pace of the digital age".

A person involved in the new company said the move was "an acknowledgment" that "the world is moving, people's reputational needs are changing . . . you do need a slightly more sophisticated, comprehensive tool kit".

They added: "There's an acknowledgment by Schillings that [legal routes are] not always the right solution. Sometimes that's what the client wants. But I think we're moving to a slightly more nuanced approach. We don't want clients just coming in a crisis, we want clients that are going to stick with us for the longer term."

The law firm was finding itself passing on business to outside PR firms, they said, "so there is certainly a commercial opportunity".

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US accountants at odds over entry rules blamed for recruitment woes

Rebel movement in South Carolina and Minnesota wants to amend need for fifth year of education

STEPHEN FOLEY — NEW YORK

Staff shortages at US accounting firms are stoking a rebel movement to relax education requirements for joining the profession, in the teeth of opposition from national leaders.

The escalating dispute could come to a head in the next few months, as accountancy representatives in South Carolina join Minnesota in pushing state legislators to embrace alternatives to the "150-hour" rule. This mandates the equivalent of a fifth year of higher education on top of the standard four-year, 120-hour undergraduate course.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants says state legislation could have dire consequences, unravelling a system that allows accountants to practise nationwide.

But pressure to amend the rule is mounting, with even the accounting industry's Big Four firms starting to question the status quo. The AICPA has agreed to put educational requirements on the agenda of a task force examining ways to tackle the talent shortage, which will report next year.

Bob Cedergren, chair of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, said the situation is already acute at smaller accounting firms.

"The Deloittes and PwCs of the world have the masses, they have offices everywhere and the ability to draw on overseas talent," he said. "We needed to take some action."

Cedergren's organisation has put forward legislation that will allow accountants to be licensed in the state with only 120 hours of higher education if they have extra work experience or take professional courses, as well as pass the Certified Public Accountants (CPA) exam that everyone also has to sit. The legislation was not taken up in the most recent session of the state legislature, but will carry over to the session in the new year.

South Carolina's CPA society is crafting a bill for the next session of its state legislature that will specify possible alternatives to the 150-hour requirement and make it clear CPAs from other states can practise in South Carolina without 150 hours of higher education.

The draft legislation has been circulated to the society's members and could be submitted to legislators next month, David Knoble, chair of the South Carolina Association of CPAs, told the Financial Times.

The movement to change the rules has grown as a wave of baby boomers hitting retirement has coincided with a decline in students taking accounting courses at university. The number of students going on to sit for the CPA exam fell to a 17-year low in 2022.

Consequences are already being felt in specialisms such as government accounting. S&P Global, the rating agency, dropped coverage of 64 municipal bond issuers earlier this year because they failed to file audited financial statements on time.

And in Minnesota, the state auditor is considering proposing the elimination of annual audit requirements for some smaller local government agencies to stem a tide of late filings.

"This is now a severe shortage, and it is causing a tsunami of problems," said Julie Blaha, Minnesota state auditor, adding a fifth year of education could be replaced with on-the-job training to stem the decline in numbers. "It's a shallow pool, and we have to do something about the leak."

Time to reflect: Bob Cedergren, chair of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, said it 'needed to take some action' to tackle acute shortages at smaller firms
Kerem Yücel

From small-town governments to associations managing firefighter pensions, municipal authorities across Minnesota are having a hard time finding external auditors, Blaha said.

One such agency was the North Fork Crow River Watershed District, a government body responsible for a stretch of river and 14 lakes north-west of Minneapolis, whose auditor left it in the lurch. "They told us we were small peanuts, compared to everything else they were doing," said Colton Henjum, the district's administrator.

The news sent him hunting for a replacement firm to do an audit legally required by December 31. Failure could have meant the district was cut off from grant money, imperilling projects for improving water quality.

Henjum said he had contacted more than 30 other firms in an eight-month search that ended only in August. "Every single one said they didn't have the manpower or are not taking on new clients."

The requirement for 150 hours of higher education before a candidate could sit for the CPA exam supplanted a previous 120-hour standard in the 1990s. The profession's leaders had spent years trying to elevate its status to make it more akin to law or medicine.

Sue Coffey, chief executive for public accounting at the AICPA, said having the equivalent of five years of higher education remains a good idea, and removing the requirement is no silver bullet for dealing with a talent shortage. It took about two decades of work to align all 50 US states around the current standards and get agreement to recognise each other's licences, and trying to repeat the feat looks daunting.

> 'This is now a severe shortage, and it is causing a tsunami of problems'
> Julie Blaha, Minnesota state auditor

"What exists is a very delicate system of agreement and trust," she said. "This has been my challenge with Minnesota. It just takes one to upset the apple cart and that could upend mobility across the country."

The AICPA has so far focused its efforts on developing ways for students to obtain the final year's worth of educational credits more quickly and at a lower cost.

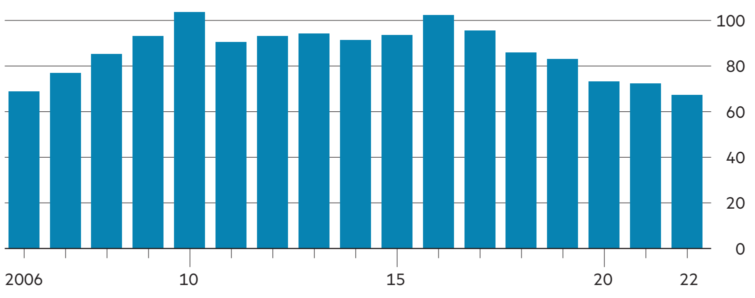
Recent research from the Center for Audit Quality, an industry group whose leadership is dominated by big firms, showed a fifth year of higher education was a particular disincentive to students from diverse backgrounds.

"The 150-hour rule has prevented many talented folks from joining the profession," said one Big Four audit executive. "The cost of an extra year of school is prohibitive and isn't necessary to succeed in public accounting, or business in general." At another Big Four firm, one executive pointed out that many states do not require that courses taken in the fifth year of education have anything to do with accounting.

A senior partner involved in recruiting there asked: "Is there an alternative, such as learning on the job, which is as good as or better than learning in the classroom?"

See Lex

Numbers taking the CPA exam fall to lowest in at least 17 years
Candidates by year ('000)



Source: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Technology

EU lists Apple among groups subject to new obligations

JAVIER ESPINOZA — BRUSSELS

Apple's App Store, Google search, TikTok and WhatsApp are among nearly two dozen digital services that Brussels said yesterday must comply with new European regulations designed to tame Big Tech.

The first list of "gatekeepers" under the Digital Markets Act, which took effect yesterday, includes six of the world's biggest tech companies: US-based Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Meta, alongside China's ByteDance, which owns TikTok.

Each will have to share data with rivals and make their services interoperable with them, among other obligations, or face fines that could run into billions of dollars, Brussels announced yesterday. The new law is designed to foster greater competition in the tech sector in Europe.

The 22 services designated as gatekeepers also include Apple's iPhone operating system and Safari web browser; Meta's Instagram and Messenger; Google's app store, Maps and YouTube; and Amazon's marketplace and advertising businesses.

The European Commission, the EU's executive body, is still considering whether to include Apple's iMessage and three Microsoft services — Bing search, its Edge browser and Microsoft Advertising — after the companies pushed back, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

EU regulators will now launch a probe to determine whether those additional Apple and Microsoft services should be covered. Separately, the commission will take a year to determine whether Apple's iPad operating system should also be part of the list, despite receiving no official submission by Apple.

Under the act, so-called gatekeepers must have a yearly turnover of more than €7.5bn, a market value above €75bn and 45mn active monthly users in the EU, though EU regulators have discretion over the designation beyond these metrics. Based on these criteria, Samsung successfully argued that its web browser for smartphones, Samsung Internet, should not be subjected to the rules, EU officials said.

Microsoft has said Bing should not be subject to the same obligations as its larger competitor, Google Search. Apple has also argued that iMessage does not have the numbers required to fall within the scope of the rules.

The commission is already braced for legal challenges by some of the large tech companies, multiple people with knowledge of the EU's thinking said.

New obligations for tech giants, including the need to inform the commission if they intend to buy a rival and the setting up of a compliance function, began yesterday.

However, they have six months to show that they are compliant with the rest of the rules, including a legal requirement to ask users for consent if companies want to merge data from different services, such as Instagram and Facebook, and a ban on ranking their own products and services above rivals on their platforms or marketplaces.

By March next year, these companies will also need to publish a compliance report. Those found in breach of the legislation can be fined as much as 10 per cent of their global turnover.

Automobiles

European carmakers bet on e-fuels future

PATRICIA NILSSON AND PETER CAMPBELL — MUNICH

So-called e-fuels are set to play a key role in the future of the European automotive industry, according to several of the region's carmakers, as they believe a concession from Brussels over the alternative fuels will allow them to keep selling combustion-engine vehicles into the next decade.

Under pressure from Germany and Italy, the European Commission said this year that cars that run on fuels made using carbon captured from the atmosphere could be exempt from a planned ban on sales of combustion-engine cars from 2035.

Executives from BMW, Renault and Mercedes-Benz said on the sidelines of the biennial Munich motor show that e-fuels, which are not yet commercially viable, were a pragmatic solution in their quest to cut emissions.

Mercedes previously announced an "ambition" to stop selling combustion engines where market conditions allow by the end of this decade.

Ola Källenius, chief executive, said the German carmaker was not putting "a final stop date" to combustion engines. The company was "ready" to sell fully electric cars when required by customers but wanted to maintain "tactical flexibility" right up until its target to become fully carbon neutral by 2039.

"This is a journey of many years and our production plans are flexible, so we can flex between electric and combustion," he said.

> 'Our production plans are flexible, so we can flex between electric and combustion'

Many industry executives have argued that less polluting fuels will be essential to cut future emissions from old cars, but critics fear they will delay the EU's 2035 ban. Transport & Environment, the electric vehicle campaign group, has called the exemption on e-fuels a "Trojan horse" for fossil fuels.

Electric-vehicle makers at the motor show were also critical of the companies supporting concessions for e-fuel cars. "A year ago we were beyond this and now we are back in that silly discussion about if electric mobility is really important," said Thomas Ingenlath, chief executive of EV brand Polestar. "The longer you discuss it, the more you will lose the chance to actually be still relevant in the future."

However, Oliver Zipse, BMW's chief executive, said Berlin would "never have agreed" to EU plans to phase out petrol and diesel cars without the inclusion of an exemption for e-fuels.

He also questioned whether the EU would end up banning sales of new combustion-engine cars by 2035, pointing to its plans to review progress with challenges such as rolling out EU-wide charging infrastructure and securing raw battery materials in 2026.

Gilles Le Borgne, Renault's technology chief, said the concession on e-fuels could "open the door" for longer use in the French carmaker's hybrid models in future and urged regulators to remain "technology neutral".

The technology behind alternative fuels such as e-methane or e-kerosene, which are made with captured CO_2 and hydrogen from renewable or low-carbon electricity, is still in its early stages.

Technology

Indonesia threatens to rein in TikTok Shop

MERCEDES RUEHL — SINGAPORE
CRISTINA CRIDDLE — LONDON

Indonesia has threatened to curb TikTok's shopping platform, months after the Chinese-owned viral video app said it would invest billions of dollars in the fast-growing south-east Asian country.

The minister of co-operatives and small and medium enterprises, Teten Masduki, yesterday accused TikTok Shop of "monopolistic" business practices at a meeting of industry and investment officials, according to a government statement.

Teten said Indonesia should "reject and prohibit" the viral short-video app from combining online shopping with its social media platform, and follow the lead of other countries including the US and India in limiting its activities.

The success of the ecommerce unit is crucial if TikTok is to justify its $300bn valuation, which makes it among the world's most highly valued private companies. The export of the Chinese group's shopping model has been beset by problems and it has already been forced to restructure the business.

The group's owner, Beijing-based ByteDance, launched TikTok Shop in Asia in 2021 and it quickly became a force in several south-east Asian countries, particularly Indonesia and the Philippines. Brands and influencers broadcast live and sell products through a clickable orange basket on the screen of the viral short-video app.

Teten said online shopping was "influenced by conversations on social media" and added that TikTok had its own logistics and payments teams. "This is called a monopoly," he said.

TikTok is trying to justify its $300bn valuation through global expansion

However, TikTok has not yet been granted an Indonesian payments licence; it relies on third-party payments services providers. A licence would allow it to benefit from transaction fees and compete better with other players that have payments services.

The minister said the US and India had banned TikTok from simultaneously running its video app and social commerce. However, the US has only threatened to ban the company while India instituted an overall ban in 2020.

South-east Asia, where TikTok has more than 300mn active monthly users, was one of the group's most promising growth markets. More than a third of those users are in Indonesia and TikTok said in June it would spend $10bn investing there over the next five years.

TikTok has already been in Jakarta's crosshairs this year. The rapid spread of "online begging" on TikTok — videos of elderly women pouring dirty river water on themselves while sobbing, in exchange for gifts from viewers that could be converted to cash — prompted a swift government rebuke.

TikTok did not respond to a request for comment.

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Fixed income. Robust demand

US and European groups rush to sell bonds before rate decisions

Market peak: the Scut Azores Highway in the Portuguese region is being constructed by Ferrovial, one of the European companies issuing debt yesterday

Barclays, Nestlé and Ferrovial tap investors in one of top 10 busiest days for corporate debt

GEORGE STEER AND MARY MCDOUGALL
LONDON
HARRIET CLARFELT — NEW YORK

US and European corporate bond markets have started September with a bang as high-grade companies rush to exploit strong investor demand for debt ahead of possible interest rate rises on both sides of the Atlantic.

Investment grade groups in both regions have emerged from the summer lull eager to tap debt markets during a period of relative market calm before major interest rate decisions from the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank.

Barclays, Nestlé and Toyota in the US and Ferrovial, Rexel and Assa Abloy in Europe were among companies issuing debt yesterday.

That comes after about $34bn worth of investment grade debt was issued in the US on Tuesday, ranking it among the 10 strongest days in the history of the corporate bond market, according to JPMorgan. According to LSEG, it was the busiest day in more than three years.

"On the issuer side, no one is thinking that rates will come down soon — they need to do what they can and raise money when demand is strong, which it is," said Matt Thomas, head of corporate debt capital markets at Barclays.

"European [investment grade] corporate issuers have been extremely active in the new issue markets over the past 10 days," Thomas added.

Debt investors are keen to lock in the historically high yields on offer from corporate issuers while a spate of robust data has eased concerns about a hard economic landing.

US investment grade borrowers are currently paying a premium of 1.22 percentage points on average over government debt, down from 1.51 percentage points a year ago — reflecting investors' growing optimism about the health of the US economy.

Now even cautious investors are being tempted into the market by the yields available.

"I'm on the bearish side of neutral in terms of the economy [but] the opportunity set [on investment grade debt] is as good on an 'all in' yield basis as it has been since the early 2000s," said Jon Mawby, co-head of absolute and total return for fixed income at investment firm Pictet.

High-yield company defaults are on the rise both in Europe and the US, however, with smaller companies in particular buckling under the weight of higher financing costs and slowing demand.

Investment grade US corporate bond spreads have tightened since April

ICE BofA Corporate index (basis points)

Source: ICE Data Services

"I get the feeling that a lot of businesses aren't going to be able to survive the higher-for-longer rates environment," said Armin Peter, global head of syndicate at UBS.

"There will be refinancing problems at some point, maybe in the second half of next year, so more companies feel better about coming to market right now," he added.

After a normally quiet period in August, corporate debt markets typically spring back to life in September.

But analysts who expected a strong start to the month said that this year more companies than usual were seeking to raise funds because of nerves around stubbornly high inflation and its impact on the future path of interest rates and economic growth.

"Corporates are looking at this post Labor Day window as an opportunity to get in front of potential uncertain economic trends," said John McClain, portfolio manager at Brandywine Global Investors. "For IG borrowers, the game plan is to lock into the environment we currently have." Joost Beaumont, an analyst at ABN Amro, added: "Investors like risk at the moment. There's been a flurry of smaller, weaker-rated banks coming to the market with relatively risky debt and they're attracting demand. It's a similar story across the wider corporate debt market."

> 'They need to do what they can and raise money when demand is strong'

McClain added that he expected the benign environment to tempt more junk issuers to come to market. "While 'all in' borrowing costs are materially higher than they were 18 months ago, I think that the receptivity of [the] market for issuance is as strong as it's been over the past 18 months."

Beyond mainstream borrowing, corporate treasurers are also engaging with other types of debt financing.

The total value of ESG bonds outstanding reached €1.7tn in June, up 28 per cent in a year, according to data from the European Securities and Markets Authority.

Nordea Bank issued a novel sustainability-linked loan bond in the last week of August that attracted "robust investor demand", Beaumont said.

Stephan Ertz, head of credit at Union Investment, said that retail and utility companies had been leading the charge in Europe for new issuance in recent weeks and that the most attractive deals were among non-financial higher-risk investment grade bonds.

"Concessions on non-financials are higher currently than on financials," said Ertz, who bought VW's bond issuance last week. "The most interesting issuers are those in investment grade with a high spread — let's say triple B rating," he added, noting that issuances from SEB and Eon had not performed well.

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Currencies

China and Japan push back against strong dollar

HUDSON LOCKETT — HONG KONG
KANA INAGAKI — TOKYO
MARY MCDOUGALL — LONDON

Officials in China and Japan are pushing back against the strength of the dollar as a rally by the US currency threatens to drive both the renminbi and the yen to historic lows.

The People's Bank of China set the trading band for the Chinese currency against the dollar at an unexpectedly high level yesterday in the latest sign of growing discomfort over the renminbi's depreciation.

Separately, Japan's top currency diplomat issued his sharpest warning yet against the yen's fall to prevent selling momentum building.

"It encourages speculators if they don't intervene and, before you know it, dollar-yen will be at ¥160," said Chris Turner, head of forex strategy at ING.

Asia's two largest economies have benefited from weaker currencies, boosting both countries' exports.

The renminbi has fallen 5.6 per cent against the dollar this year while the yen has dropped 11 per cent to more than ¥147 as the greenback is pushed higher by robust US economic data.

But top officials in both Tokyo and Beijing are wary of runaway depreciation against the ascendant dollar.

The move by the PBoC centred on the trading band, the midpoint for which is set every day by the central bank.

> 'China is very concerned with foreign exchange stability . . . especially after outflows [from stocks]'

The renminbi is only permitted to trade 2 per cent in either direction from it. The midpoint yesterday was set at Rmb7.1969. That was 0.11 percentage points stronger than a consensus forecast from analysts polled by Bloomberg and a record gap.

The renminbi finished onshore trading in China yesterday at Rmb7.31, close to the lows seen last October when cities across the country were locked down in response to Covid-19 outbreaks.

Analysts said the move reflected Chinese leaders' concerns about the potential for capital flight if the currency lost too much ground too quickly.

"China is very concerned with foreign exchange stability right now, especially after outflows from the stock market in August," said Ken Cheung, chief Asia foreign exchange strategist at Mizuho Bank.

Foreign investors sold a record $12bn of Chinese stocks last month as the latest stimulus measures from Beijing failed to address concerns over slowing economic growth.

In Japan yesterday, Masato Kanda, vice-minister of finance for international affairs, told reporters regarding the yen that "if these moves continue, the government will respond appropriately without ruling out any options".

Japan's yield differential with the US is even larger than China's thanks to the Bank of Japan's continued reliance on ultra-low interest rates.

Equities

KKR plans to list chip equipment maker Kokusai in biggest Tokyo IPO since 2018

LEO LEWIS — HONG KONG
KANA INAGAKI — TOKYO

US private equity group KKR is planning an initial public offering for a chip-equipment maker on Tokyo's exchange in the fourth quarter in what would be the market's biggest IPO since 2018.

KKR aims to float Hitachi Kokusai Electric at a level that values the company at ¥400bn ($2.7bn), according to two people familiar with the buyout group's plans.

The valuation is about 60 per cent more than what KKR paid for the company when it was bought from Hitachi in 2017 as part of the industrial conglomerate's shedding of non-core businesses.

Since then, valuations of chip companies and their suppliers have taken off, with the technology's strategic importance in the supply chain highlighted by US efforts to restrict Chinese access to advanced semiconductors.

The Kokusai IPO is set to be the biggest since SoftBank listed its telecoms unit with a market value of ¥7.2tn in 2018 and would come after the tech conglomerate lists chip designer Arm in New York this month with a target valuation of up to $52bn.

KKR's acquisition of Kokusai came at a time when global private equity groups were stressing their enthusiasm for opportunities in Japan.

This sentiment has since intensified as funding for deals becomes more expensive in the US and Europe but remains low in Japan because of the central bank's determination to stick with an ultra-loose monetary policy.

KKR bought the chip-equipment manufacturer from Hitachi in 2017

KKR suffered a recent setback with Marelli, a car-parts group it bought and rebranded from Nissan.

Marelli last year entered court-led restructuring after suffering a huge sales collapse during the pandemic. The suddenness of the Marelli crisis raised red flags among Japanese banks and hurt KKR's reputation in the country.

People close to the IPO plans said that the group intended to list Kokusai during a window between November and December, traditionally the busiest time of the year for listings and seen by bankers as the period in which efforts to pitch new issuance to investors has the strongest following wind. KKR declined to comment.

The listing would come on the back of a broader recovery in Japan's IPO market, with the Topix stock index at a multi-decade high after rising more than 28 per cent since the start of the year.

Ten companies are scheduled to list their shares in Japan this month and another nine are set to list in October.

The biggest IPO so far this year, of Rakuten Bank, raised $625mn in April.

Additional reporting by Nicholas Megaw in New York

Asset management

BAE Systems pension scheme awards £23bn mandate to Goldman Sachs

HARRIET AGNEW AND SYLVIA PFEIFER
LONDON

BAE Systems' pension scheme has appointed Goldman Sachs Asset Management to oversee its £23bn of defined benefit assets, the largest mandate of this kind in the UK to date.

The appointment is the latest sign that increasingly onerous compliance requirements, rising costs and unpredictable markets are pushing big asset owners such as pension funds to outsource management of their portfolios to external firms — a business dubbed Outsourced Chief Investment Officer.

They are betting that such OCIO agreements will help them improve performance and cut costs through greater scale and efficiency.

"Corporate DB schemes in the UK are continuing to mature," said Chloe Kipling, head of Emea institutional client business at GSAM. "In some instances, this is a catalyst for them to review what governance structure makes sense for the next stage, given the increasing complexity as it relates to investments."

The almost 50-person in-house investment management team at BAE Systems is set to join GSAM towards the end of this year to continue managing two DB schemes, which promise to pay employees' pensions at a fixed level.

Back in October 2019, BAE's four UK pension schemes — including the two largest, the BAE Systems Pension Scheme and the BAE Systems Executive Pension Scheme — had a funding deficit of £1.9bn. Following contributions by the parent sponsor, BAE, the defence giant's schemes were fully funded at the next actuarial valuation in March 2021.

> 'We continue to look at ways to de-risk pension liabilities, reducing costs and improving efficiency'

As of June this year, they had swung to a surplus of £600mn.

Andrew Gallagher, chair of BAE Systems pension schemes trustees, said: "As we continue to look at ways to further de-risk pension liabilities, reducing the cost and improving the efficiency of asset management are essential."

Outsourcing agreements vary in the control that is delegated with some clients wanting the external investment manager to handle everything: asset allocation, selection of individual funds and managers and finally all risk management and back-office functions.

Others want to maintain a veto over key decisions or only outsource funds earmarked for a particular type of asset.

There has been a flurry of deals in recent years. In February, Royal Mail Pension Plan selected BlackRock to manage its £8.8bn in DB scheme assets.

Last year, the £13bn National Grid UK Pension Scheme appointed Russell Investments to an OCIO mandate; BlackRock was appointed by insurer AIG to manage up to $150bn in fixed income and private assets; and UK asset manager Schroders announced a new £10bn mandate managing energy provider Centrica's pension schemes.

In 2021, British Airways transferred £21.5bn in its two main pension schemes to BlackRock — at the time the largest such deal in the UK.

Additional reporting by Chris Flood in London

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Corporate bond investing defies usual playbook

Ellen Carr

Markets Insight

Anyone who takes Finance 101 learns that a dollar today is worth more than a dollar in the future.

In a normal environment, this basic tenet translates into an increase in the yield earned by an investor from the shortest maturities to the longest, reflecting the risk and opportunity cost of holding on to debt for more time — the so-called "term premium".

But this maths no longer applies since last autumn's "inversion of the yield curve". A two-year Treasury bond pays more interest than a 30-year one.

Since coupons on bonds issued by companies incorporate the so-called "risk-free rate" of a similar-maturity Treasury yield, you may think corporate bond issuers are seeing the same inversion. But the effect is not as pronounced.

Credit spreads, which represent the risk premium demanded by investors to hold a corporate rather than a Treasury bond, are set by the market's assessment of an issuer's perceived level of risk. Like Treasury yields, they vary by maturity. Investment grade-rated companies pay even more to issue longer debt, relative to shorter maturities, than the US government (normally) does.

This second upward-sloping curve, called a "credit curve", makes intuitive sense; if it's riskier to lend to the US Treasury for a longer period, it should be riskier still to do so for a company, even one like, say, Apple, with a double A credit rating, a $3tn market cap and $166bn in cash.

Some might argue that Apple is a better credit than the US given the wrangling over debt ceilings and risk of a default. But a corporate bond is not supposed to trade "through," that is, at a negative spread to, its sovereign in the developed world. Data from JPMorgan shows that, at the start of 2022 (and the tightening cycle in interest rates), the raised spread for five-year non-financial corporate debt relative to three-year debt was a mere 0.09 percentage points.

It was another 0.35 points for 10- versus five-year debt and 0.36 points for 30- versus 10-year debt. This suggested, reasonably, that there was little credit risk involved in buying five-year Apple debt relative to three-year debt and more risk involved in "reaching for yield" all the way out to a 30-year Apple bond. IPhone disintermediation risk is a lot easier to forecast for three years than thirty. While the longer-dated credit curve hasn't changed much since the start of the US interest rate tightening cycle, there have been more intriguing shifts in shorter-term debt.

> If an investor buys the five-year, they are ignoring their expensive MBA by accepting a lower yield

For example, in June, Nasdaq issued a three-year bond at a spread of 0.90 percentage points, 0.45 points lower than its five-year spread of 1.35 points.

Ordinarily a credit curve this steep would signal concern about a deterioration in Nasdaq's credit quality from 2026 to 2028. But the coupons of the bonds tell the opposite story: the three-year bond has a coupon of 5.65 per cent while the five-year pays 5.35 per cent.

A host of other companies that have issued three-year bonds as part of a larger financing in 2023, including Deere, Benz, PNC, Stanley Black & Decker, and Walmart, experienced the same phenomenon.

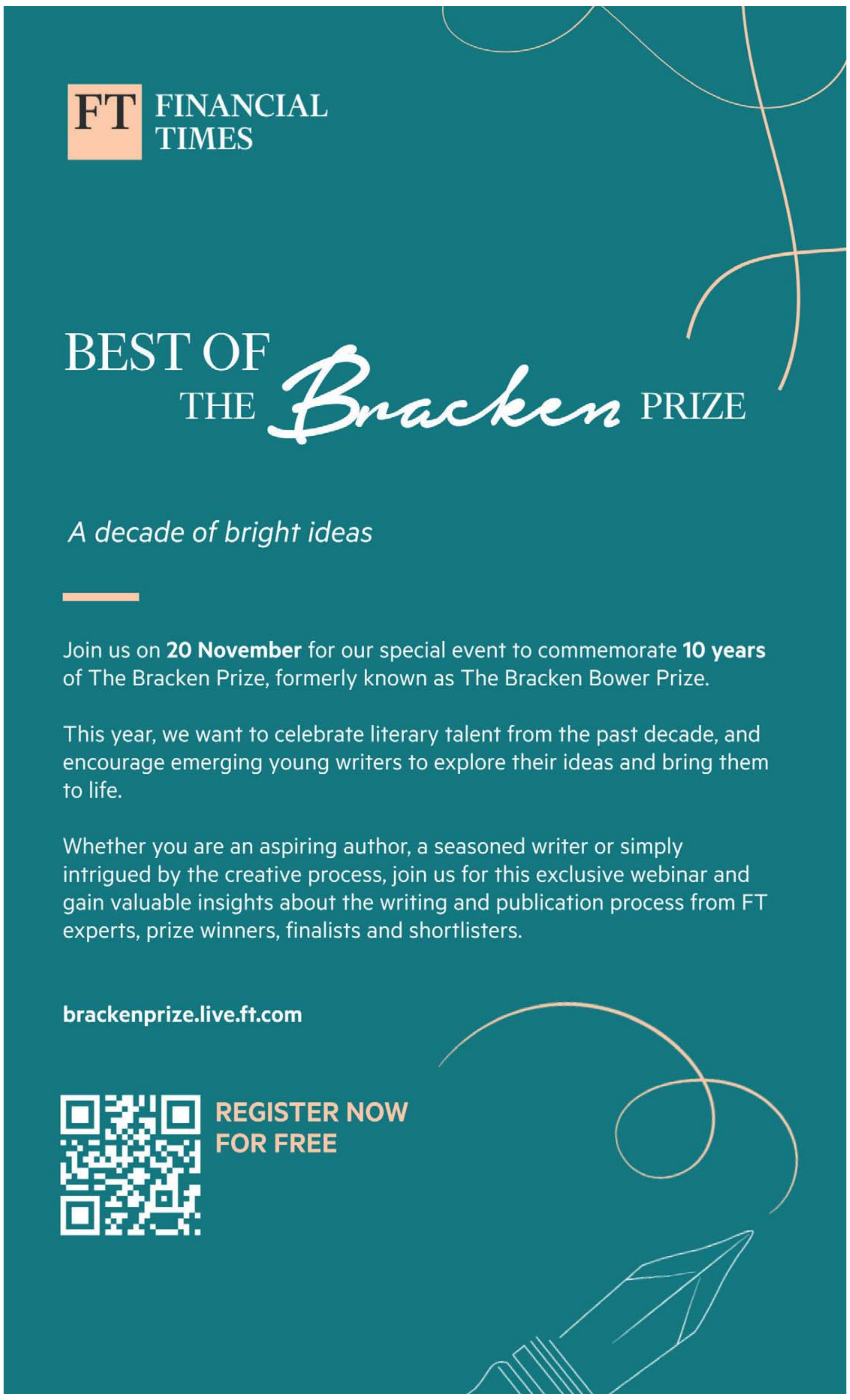
This places fixed-income investors evaluating such issues in a dilemma. They must consider whether the risk of further Treasury curve inversion is high (worse for the three-year), whether the US Federal Reserve will pause and the curve will "bull steepen" (better for the three-year), or whether Nasdaq will improve as a credit in the near term (better for the five-year).

If an investor, who likely did take Finance 101, decides to buy the five-year, they are ignoring their expensive MBA by accepting a lower yield for longer Nasdaq risk.

The current corporate bond conditions also matter for other types of investors. For example, an equity investor might attempt to value Nasdaq using a discounted cash flow model, which uses weighted average cost of capital (WACC) as an input. But does a calculation of Nasdaq's WACC make sense when the curve inversion might be distorting its true cost of debt?

When the Treasury curve eventually normalises, none of this may matter much. The cost of debt of Apple, Nasdaq and their ilk will probably go back to showing a reassuring increase as maturity lengthens. But, for now, as the heavy autumn issuance calendar hits, corporate bond investors, issuers and underwriters will continue to navigate a financing environment that defies their usual playbook.

Ellen Carr is a bond portfolio manager at Barksdale Investment Management and co-author of 'Undiversified: The Big Gender Short in Investment Management'. Barksdale may hold interests in the securities mentioned



The day in the markets

What you need to know

- **Global stocks fall as oil price increase spurs inflation worries**
- **Brent crude rises above $90 a barrel after moves by Saudi Arabia and Russia**
- **Dollar rises to its highest level since March banking sector crisis**

Global stocks slid and Treasury yields rose yesterday as firmer crude prices and strong economic data from the US raised trader concerns that high inflation could stick around for longer.

Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 lost 0.8 per cent by midday in New York and the tech-focused Nasdaq Composite slid 1 per cent, with both indices extending losses from the previous session.

Across the Atlantic, the region-wide Stoxx Europe 600 index lost 0.6 per cent, marking its sixth straight day of declines. Paris's CAC 40 gave up 0.8 per cent and Frankfurt's Xetra Dax lost 0.2 per cent.

"The US economy's resilience appears to have led to a reappraisal of how soon the US Federal Reserve might start to ease policy, driving up real interest rates, which in turn has weighed on equities," said Luca Paolini, chief strategist at Pictet Asset Management.

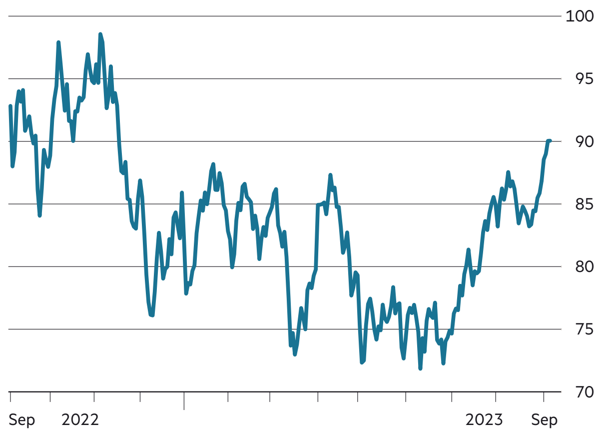
The same could not be said for Europe, where a string of weak business surveys this week stoked investor fears of a looming economic slowdown.

Banks and consumer cyclicals led decliners in the region, with the Stoxx Europe 600 Financial Services index down 0.6 per cent. In the US, the KBW Bank index was down 1.6 per cent.

Crude oil prices rebounded from morning declines as investors worried about the impact of moves by Saudi Arabia and Russia to extend voluntary supply cuts until the end of the year.

Oil price rises following Opec+ supply cut

Brent crude ($ per barrel)



Source: Refinitiv

On Tuesday, oil prices jumped to their highest level since November last year.

Global benchmark Brent crude was up 0.1 per cent to $90.14 a barrel and US equivalent West Texas Intermediate gained 0.3 per cent to $86.95 a barrel.

"Oil markets look likely to remain in deficit over the upcoming months and we still see scope for crude oil prices to rise further," said Mark Haefele, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Rising oil prices hit markets in China — the world's largest importer of the fossil fuel — where the benchmark CSI 300 index of Shanghai and Shenzhen stocks fell 0.2 per cent.

The US Dollar index, a measure of the currency's strength against a basket of six peers, rose 0.1 per cent to its highest level since March when a crisis in the banking sector pushed investors towards the haven currency.

Yields on policy-sensitive two-year US Treasuries added 6 basis points to 5 per cent while those on benchmark 10-year bonds rose 3bp to 4.29 per cent as the debt was sold. **Daria Mosolova**

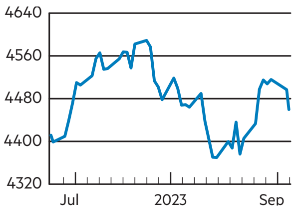
Markets update

	US	Eurozone	Japan	UK	China	Brazil
Stocks	**S&P 500**	**Eurofirst 300**	**Nikkei 225**	**FTSE100**	**Shanghai Comp**	**Bovespa**
Level	4459.57	1797.48	33241.02	7426.14	3158.08	116435.56
% change on day	-0.83	-0.58	0.62	-0.16	0.12	-0.76
Currency	**$ index (DXY)**	**$ per €**	**Yen per $**	**$ per £**	**Rmb per $**	**Real per $**
Level	104.712	1.071	147.630	1.249	7.310	4.975
% change on day	-0.091	0.000	-0.037	-0.478	0.035	-0.010
Govt. bonds	**10-year Treasury**	**10-year Bund**	**10-year JGB**	**10-year Gilt**	**10-year bond**	**10-year bond**
Yield	4.299	2.652	0.651	4.629	2.669	10.994
Basis point change on day	4.860	4.300	-0.190	0.400	2.800	11.300
World index, Commods	**FTSE All-World**	**Oil - Brent**	**Oil - WTI**	**Gold**	**Silver**	**Metals (LMEX)**
Level	448.34	90.28	87.15	1926.10	23.55	3755.00
% change on day	-0.62	0.27	0.53	-0.57	-2.04	0.11

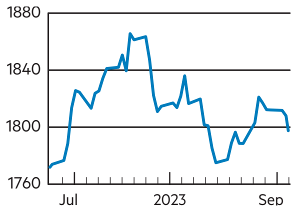
Yesterday's close apart from: Currencies = 16:00 GMT; S&P, Bovespa, All World, Oil = 17:00 GMT; Gold, Silver = London pm fix. Bond data supplied by Tullett Prebon.

Main equity markets

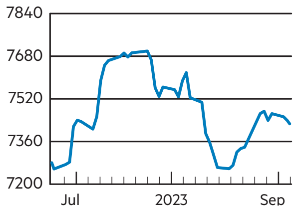
S&P 500 index



Eurofirst 300 index



FTSE 100 index



Biggest movers

%	US		Eurozone		UK	
Ups	Dexcom	7.18	Casino Guichard	2.99	Johnson Matthey	3.70
	Zimmer Biomet Holdings	4.27	Evonik Industries	2.36	Sage	1.79
	Insulet	3.56	Ucb	2.00	Land Securities	1.77
	Centene	3.09	A.p. Moller - Maersk B	1.84	Bunzl	1.70
	Charter Communications	2.79	Colruyt	1.81	B&m Eur Value Retail S.a.	1.68
Downs	Albemarle	-4.80	Unicredit	-4.99	Burberry	-4.71
	First Solar	-4.39	Lvmh	-4.36	Int Consolidated Airlines S.a.	-3.70
	Zions Ban Na	-4.32	Fresen.med.care	-3.76	St. James's Place	-2.27
	Lockheed Martin	-4.15	Hugo Boss	-3.37	Prudential	-2.26
	Enphase Energy	-4.13	Christian Dior	-3.30	Abrdn	-2.08

Prices taken at 17:00 GMT. Based on the constituents of the FTSE Eurofirst 300 Eurozone

All data provided by Morningstar unless otherwise noted.

Wall Street

Debt-laden **AMC** plummeted after unveiling plans to raise funds through the sale of 40mn shares.

Proceeds from sales would be used to repay and refinance the cinema chain's debt and other "general corporate purposes", it said.

In an acknowledgment of its "meme stock" status, which has stoked volatility in its share price, the filing cautioned in bold letters "against investing in our class A common stock, unless you are prepared to incur the risk of losing all or a substantial portion of your investment".

Roku rallied on plans to reduce its overheads after a regulatory filing revealed that the streaming platform was seeking to cut about 10 per cent of its workforce and limit new hires.

Excluding the restructuring and impairment charges linked to these changes, Roku forecast net revenue of $835mn to $875mn for its fiscal third quarter, topping the "roughly $815mn" estimate stated in July.

Tech giant **Apple** retreated following a report in the Wall Street Journal that said Beijing had ordered officials at central government agencies not to use iPhones and "other foreign-branded devices" for work.

The move could have a "chilling effect for foreign brands in China", warned the article. *Ray Douglas*

Europe

Swedish home improvement chain **Clas Ohlson** rallied on reporting an operating profit excluding writedown of IT systems and headcount reductions of SKr154mn ($13.8mn) for its fiscal first quarter.

Driving this performance was strengthened gross margins and an "extensive cost-saving initiatives", said Kristofer Tonström, chief executive.

Another big gainer was Poland's **InPost**, the automatic parcel machines group, which reported better than expected second-quarter results.

Adjusted core profits jumped 35 per cent year on year to 690mn zlotys ($164.5mn), beating the consensus estimate by 9 per cent, said Jefferies.

Underpinning these results was "a stronger than expected profitability recovery in Poland", said the broker, "and reduced losses in the UK following the distribution partnership with [logistics provider] Menzies".

New business lifted Norway's **REC Silicon**, a producer of polysilicon and silicon gas for the solar and electronics industries.

It signed a 10-year "take or pay" supply agreement with South Korean conglomerate Hanwha, which owns a 33.33 per cent stake in REC, according LSEG data.

The deal was currently worth about $3bn, said REC. *Ray Douglas*

London

In the top half of the FTSE 100 index was **B&M European Value Retail**, which received some backing from brokers after its 3.4 per cent slide a day earlier.

Shore Capital lifted its rating from "hold" to "buy" following the discount store chain's purchase of 51 properties from failed rival Wilko for about £13mn.

B&M's expansion plans were expected "to drive a substantial increase in top-line growth", said analysts.

A similar rationale was behind Stifel increasing its price target for B&M by 2.5 per cent.

Heading the FTSE 250 index was asset manager **Bridgepoint**, which announced that it was buying renewables specialist Energy Capital Partners in a cash-and-stock deal worth about £835mn.

Numis said the purchase would lift Bridgepoint's diversification, providing a gateway to infrastructure investing that was "generally a more in-demand asset class with good growth potential".

Near the bottom of the mid-cap index was retailer **WHSmith**, which posted a solid set of preliminary results that included a 28 per cent jump in revenue for its fiscal year.

Investors were, however, worried about "a sharp slowdown in the pace of sales growth for the travel arm", said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell. *Ray Douglas*

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MARKET DATA

WORLD MARKETS AT A GLANCE

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Change during previous day's trading (%)

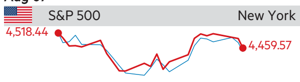
S&P 500	Nasdaq Composite	Dow Jones Ind	FTSE 100	FTSE Eurofirst 300	Nikkei	Hang Seng	FTSE All World $	$ per €	$ per £	¥ per $	£ per €	Oil Brent $ Sep	Gold $
-0.83%	-1.12%	-0.62%	-0.16%	-0.58%	0.62%	-0.04%	-0.62%	No change	-0.478%	-0.037%	0.469%	-0.40%	-0.57%

Stock Market movements over last 30 days, with the FTSE All-World in the same currency as a comparison

AMERICAS

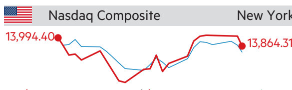
Aug 07 - - Index All World

S&P 500 New York



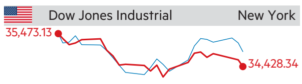
Day -0.83% Month -0.38% Year 14.15%

Nasdaq Composite New York



Day -1.12% Month -0.29% Year 20.13%

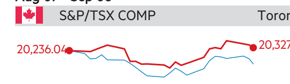
Dow Jones Industrial New York



Day -0.62% Month -1.81% Year 10.55%

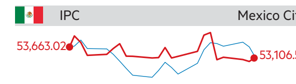
Aug 07 - Sep 06 Index All World

S&P/TSX COMP Toronto



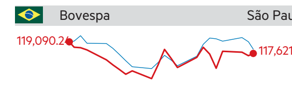
Day -0.93% Month -0.06% Year 5.96%

IPC Mexico City



Day -0.10% Month -2.03% Year 15.23%

Bovespa São Paulo

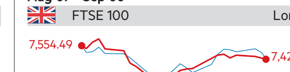


Day -0.76% Month -2.55% Year 6.10%

EUROPE

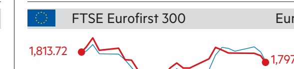
Aug 07 - Sep 06 Index All World

FTSE 100 London



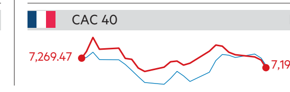
Day -0.16% Month -1.84% Year 1.70%

FTSE Eurofirst 300 Europe



Day -0.58% Month -0.94% Year 9.94%

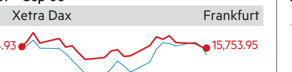
CAC 40 Paris



Day -0.84% Month -1.65% Year 18.07%

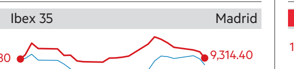
Aug 07 - Sep 06 Index All World

Xetra Dax Frankfurt



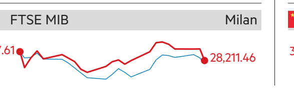
Day -0.19% Month -1.19% Year NaN%

Ibex 35 Madrid



Day -0.83% Month -0.58% Year 18.46%

FTSE MIB Milan

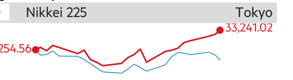


Day -1.54% Month -1.31% Year 31.34%

ASIA

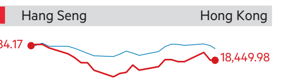
Aug 07 - Sep 06 Index All World

Nikkei 225 Tokyo



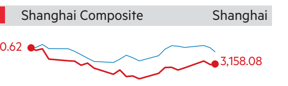
Day 0.62% Month 3.29% Year 20.40%

Hang Seng Hong Kong



Day -0.04% Month -5.58% Year -4.04%

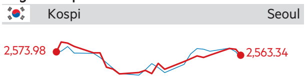
Shanghai Composite Shanghai



Day 0.12% Month -3.95% Year -1.31%

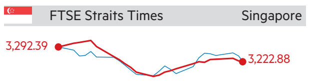
Aug 07 - Sep 06 Index All World

Kospi Seoul



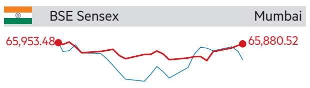
Day -0.73% Month -1.52% Year 6.64%

FTSE Straits Times Singapore



Day -0.12% Month -2.22% Year 0.12%

BSE Sensex Mumbai



Day 0.15% Month 0.28% Year 11.24%

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Argentina	Merval	595888.88	598133.37
Australia	All Ordinaries	7461.60	7516.80
	S&P/ASX 200	7257.10	7314.30
	S&P/ASX 200 Res	6099.30	6097.10
Austria	ATX	3175.66	3193.31
Belgium	BEL 20	3673.29	3652.31
	BEL Mid	9926.99	9941.04
Brazil	IBovespa	116435.56	117331.30
Canada	S&P/TSX 60	1211.25	1223.26
	S&P/TSX Comp	20224.88	20413.76
	S&P/TSX Div Met & Min	1759.82	1782.65
Chile	S&P/CLX IGPA Gen	30151.52	30232.97
China	FTSE A200	10001.69	10024.30
	FTSE B35	9000.71	8988.96
	Shanghai A	3311.09	3307.21
	Shanghai B	241.19	240.10
	Shanghai Comp	3158.08	3154.37
	Shenzhen A	2062.50	2060.92
	Shenzhen B	1148.00	1147.90
Colombia	COLCAP	1261.61	1260.21
Croatia	CROBEX	2013.05	2011.29

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Cyprus	CSE M&P Gen	68.46	68.68
Czech Republic	PX	1339.28	1337.04
Denmark	OMXC Copenahgen 20	2177.63	2178.73
Egypt	EGX 30	19044.39	18910.99
Estonia	OMX Tallinn	1872.64	1859.11
Finland	OMX Helsinki General	9845.88	9837.06
France	CAC 40	7194.09	7254.72
	SBF 120	5488.42	5531.85
Germany	M-DAX	27437.26	27666.59
	TecDAX	3129.36	3141.03
	XETRA Dax	15741.37	15771.71
Greece	Athens Gen	1273.48	1276.52
	FTSE/ASE 20	3079.32	3085.85
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	18449.98	18456.91
	HS China Enterprise	6403.70	6396.76
	HSCC Red Chip	3647.10	3642.45
Hungary	Bux	55884.54	55722.95
India	BSE Sensex	65880.52	65780.26
	Nifty 500	17284.60	17252.10
Indonesia	Jakarta Comp	6995.95	6991.71
Ireland	ISEQ Overall	8682.52	8774.04
Israel	Tel Aviv 125	1865.71	1853.74

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Italy	FTSE Italia All-Share	30194.81	30664.17
	FTSE Italia Mid Cap	41390.27	42020.18
	FTSE MIB	28211.46	28652.18
Japan	2nd Section	7228.27	7239.06
	Nikkei 225	33241.02	33036.76
	S&P Topix 150	2078.22	2063.45
	Topix	2392.53	2377.85
Jordan	Amman SE	2408.69	2397.75
Kenya	NSE 20	1544.95	1538.64
Kuwait	KSX Market Index	6633.44	6603.51
Latvia	OMX Riga	1386.35	1396.53
Lithuania	OMX Vilnius	961.03	958.83
Luxembourg	LuxX	1445.98	1450.20
Malaysia	FTSE Bursa KLCI	1460.62	1454.83
Mexico	IPC	52880.37	52932.50
Morocco	MASI	11852.24	11871.36
Netherlands	AEX	745.43	747.11
	AEX All Share	1011.54	1012.75
New Zealand	NZX 50	11427.66	11437.25
Nigeria	SE All Share	68334.68	68279.14
Norway	Oslo All Share	1017.37	1006.88
Pakistan	KSE 100	45807.58	45491.49

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Philippines	Manila Comp	6241.69	6225.00
Poland	Wig	66808.17	67828.60
Portugal	PSI 20	6082.08	6148.56
	PSI General	4438.69	4439.82
Romania	BET Index	13476.21	13214.22
Russia	Micex Index	2436.57	2445.30
	RTX	1245.71	1212.57
Saudi-Arabia	TADAWUL All Share Index	11410.98	11430.87
Singapore	FTSE Straits Times	3222.88	3226.83
Slovakia	SAX	330.85	330.85
Slovenia	SBI TOP	-	-
South Africa	FTSE/JSE All Share	74411.02	75016.00
	FTSE/JSE Res 20	56538.27	56898.87
	FTSE/JSE Top 40	68754.21	69322.26
South Korea	Kospi	2563.34	2582.18
	Kospi 200	337.85	340.29
Spain	IBEX 35	9314.40	9392.00
Sri Lanka	CSE All Share	11353.65	11474.95
Sweden	OMX Stockholm 30	2202.57	2203.70
	OMX Stockholm AS	817.37	817.34
Switzerland	SMI Index	10924.42	10958.90

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Taiwan	Weighted Pr	16915.54	16942.30
Thailand	Bangkok SET	1548.78	1548.23
Turkey	BIST 100	8295.50	8236.14
UAE	Abu Dhabi General Index	9222.93	9251.11
UK	FT 30	2646.90	2661.10
	FTSE 100	7426.14	7437.93
	FTSE 4Good UK	6691.49	6705.33
	FTSE All Share	4048.70	4055.78
	FTSE techMARK 100	6321.33	6303.94
USA	DJ Composite	11440.49	11510.79
	DJ Industrial	34428.34	34641.97
	DJ Transport	15354.25	15488.72
	DJ Utilities	851.94	851.44
	Nasdaq 100	15352.55	15508.24
	Nasdaq Cmp	13864.31	14020.95
	NYSE Comp	15870.41	15942.48
	S&P 500	4459.57	4496.83
	Wilshire 5000	42053.18	41446.59
Venezuela	IBC	38691.40	38625.96
Vietnam	VNI	1245.50	1234.98

Country	Index	Latest	Previous
Cross-Border	DJ Global Titans ($)	516.37	521.50
	Euro Stoxx 50 (Eur)	4239.63	4269.16
	Euronext 100 ID	1341.24	1350.68
	FTSE 4Good Global ($)	11270.85	11378.29
	FTSE All World ($)	448.34	451.13
	FTSE E300	1797.48	1807.96
	FTSE Eurotop 100	3574.23	3596.38
	FTSE Global 100 ($)	3044.06	3076.41
	FTSE Gold Min ($)	1674.64	1712.48
	FTSE Latibex Top (Eur)	4440.00	4432.20
	FTSE Multinationals ($)	3142.21	3153.50
	FTSE World ($)	818.56	823.90
	FTSEurofirst 100 (Eur)	4805.07	4835.32
	FTSEurofirst 80 (Eur)	5753.42	5788.90
	MSCI ACWI Fr ($)	683.97	688.12
	MSCI All World ($)	2973.45	2990.17
	MSCI Europe (Eur)	1837.99	1843.50
	MSCI Pacific ($)	2783.84	2808.90
	S&P Euro (Eur)	1879.91	1890.98
	S&P Europe 350 (Eur)	1846.36	1856.49
	S&P Global 1200 ($)	3254.80	3276.81
	Stoxx 50 (Eur)	3939.24	3964.29

(c) Closed. (u) Unavaliable. † Correction. ♥ Subject to official recalculation. For more index coverage please see www.ft.com/worldindices. A fuller version of this table is available on the ft.com research data archive.

STOCK MARKET: BIGGEST MOVERS

AMERICA

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Tesla	159.9	248.66	-7.83
Nvidia	119.1	468.18	-17.30
Apple	62.8	184.14	-5.56
Advanced Micro Devices	30.1	109.39	-1.40
Amazon.com	23.9	135.89	-1.38
Meta Platforms	22.6	299.49	-0.66
Microsoft	20.7	331.85	-1.70
Alphabet	10.0	134.44	-1.33
Alphabet	9.1	135.44	-1.27
Netflix	8.1	444.28	-4.40
BIGGEST MOVERS	**Close price**	**Day's change**	**Day's chng%**
Ups			
Dexcom	107.54	7.21	7.18
Zimmer Biomet Holdings	122.84	5.03	4.27
Insulet	193.64	6.67	3.56
Centene	63.79	1.91	3.09
Charter Communications	420.41	11.42	2.79
Downs			
Albemarle	191.17	-9.63	-4.80
First Solar	178.30	-8.18	-4.39
Zions Ban Na	34.57	-1.56	-4.32
Lockheed Martin	426.70	-18.49	-4.15
Enphase Energy	122.49	-5.28	-4.13

Based on the constituents of the S&P500

LONDON

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Shell	148.0	2489.00	20.00
Bp	134.7	515.90	4.40
Astrazeneca	105.5	10606.00	-130.00
Rio Tinto	103.3	4978.50	3.50
Diageo	93.3	3175.50	28.00
Crh	85.0	4377.00	-53.00
Hsbc Holdings	65.8	585.30	-2.20
Relx	63.6	2637.00	32.00
Unilever	59.6	3981.50	-13.00
Glencore	54.1	429.45	-2.75
BIGGEST MOVERS	**Close price**	**Day's change**	**Day's chng%**
Ups			
Bridgepoint	189.30	14.40	8.23
Johnson Matthey	1782.00	63.50	3.70
Int Distributions Services	250.40	8.90	3.69
Balanced Commercial Property Trust	71.00	2.30	3.35
W.a.g Payment Solutions	92.60	2.60	2.89
Downs			
Ferrexpo	74.25	-5.35	-6.72
Wh Smith	1390.00	-94.00	-6.33
Energean	1117.00	-66.00	-5.58
Digital 9 Infrastructure	57.80	-3.00	-4.93
Wizz Air Holdings	2090.00	-107.00	-4.87

Based on the constituents of the FTSE 350 index

EURO MARKETS

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Unicredit	373.3	20.94	-1.10
Lvmh	340.4	726.00	-33.10
Richemont N	269.1	122.35	-6.74
Roche Gs	265.3	263.94	-1.57
Intesa Sanpaolo	243.3	2.39	-0.06
Novo Nordisk B A/s	228.6	178.01	0.51
Novartis N	226.7	91.20	-0.61
Nestle N	213.0	108.96	0.48
Ubs N	187.5	21.60	-0.50
Eni	184.9	14.79	-0.04
BIGGEST MOVERS	**Close price**	**Day's change**	**Day's chng%**
Ups			
A.p. M__ller - M__rsk B A/s	1704.49	30.84	1.84
Umg	23.07	0.39	1.72
A.p. M__ller - M__rsk A A/s	1674.98	25.48	1.54
Sika N	256.72	3.87	1.53
Investor Ab Ser. A	17.90	0.26	1.47
Downs			
Orsted A/s Dk 10	6.78	-0.40	-5.53
Richemont N	122.35	-6.74	-5.22
Unicredit	20.94	-1.10	-4.99
Lvmh	726.00	-33.10	-4.36
Santander	3.41	-0.10	-2.74

Based on the constituents of the FTSEurofirst 300 Eurozone index

TOKYO

ACTIVE STOCKS	stock traded m's	close price	Day's change
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha,	1646.5	5390.00	-66.00
Toyota Motor	838.5	2651.00	62.00
Mitsubishi Ufj Fin,.	811.8	1230.00	12.50
Softbank .	600.5	6400.00	-22.00
Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha	599.4	3997.00	-80.00
Tokyo Electron	592.9	22115.00	420.00
Advantest	574.1	18490.00	540.00
Mitsubishi	568.6	7602.00	-20.00
Mitsui O.s.k.lines,	505.4	4259.00	-33.00
Sumitomo Mitsui Fin,.	503.8	7002.00	78.00
BIGGEST MOVERS	**Close price**	**Day's change**	**Day's chng%**
Ups			
Mitsui E&s Co.	588.00	48.00	8.89
Mazda Motor	1680.00	75.00	4.67
Pacific Metals Co.,	1720.00	75.00	4.56
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries,	8912.00	317.00	3.69
Concordia Fin Ltd	688.40	23.70	3.57
Downs			
Asahi Holdings,	5751.00	-143.00	-2.43
Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha	3997.00	-80.00	-1.96
Mitsubishi Logistics	3930.00	-67.00	-1.68
Nippon Express Holdings,	7614.00	-117.00	-1.51
Yamato Holdings Co.,	2710.00	-40.00	-1.45

Based on the constituents of the Nikkei 225 index

UK MARKET WINNERS AND LOSERS

FTSE 100	Sep 06 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Johnson Matthey	1782.00	9.6	-
Ocado	847.00	6.8	37.0
Bp	515.90	5.5	8.3
Weir	1910.50	4.7	14.3
Centrica	156.05	4.0	61.8
Antofagasta	1496.00	3.5	-3.6
Shell	2489.00	3.2	7.0
Whitbread	3554.00	3.1	38.1
Rio Tinto	4978.50	2.6	-
Pearson	860.60	2.2	-8.4
Pershing Square Holdings Ltd	3044.00	2.2	4.3
Relx	2637.00	2.1	15.2
Losers			
Prudential	933.20	-6.7	-17.2
Croda Int	5218.00	-6.4	-
Burberry	2085.00	-6.2	4.2
Ashtead	5234.00	-5.8	10.8
Int Consolidated Airlines S.a.	153.75	-4.6	24.6
Fresnillo	557.20	-4.5	-
Diageo	3175.50	-4.4	-13.1
Endeavour Mining	1588.00	-4.0	-9.4
Haleon	312.80	-3.9	-4.5
Hargreaves Lansdown	741.20	-3.8	-
Abrdn	157.70	-3.7	-
Coca-cola Hbc Ag	2225.00	-3.6	12.9

FTSE 250	Sep 06 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Bridgepoint	189.30	7.7	-5.3
Icg Enterprise Trust	1130.00	6.2	-3.9
Dowlais	119.60	5.8	-
Trainline	247.40	4.8	-9.4
Caledonia Investments	3480.00	4.8	-4.0
Bodycote	687.50	4.6	20.8
Vinacapital Vietnam Opportunity Fund Ld	456.50	4.5	2.2
Harbourvest Global Private Equity	2305.00	4.3	1.7
Watches Of Switzerland	599.50	4.3	-
Qinetiq	333.20	3.9	-6.5
Int Distributions Services	250.40	3.9	18.0
Mitie	100.80	3.8	35.8
Losers			
Diversified Energy	84.60	-11.9	-
Cmc Markets	103.80	-9.6	-
Pagegroup	401.00	-7.9	-
Wizz Air Holdings	2090.00	-6.7	11.5
Synthomer	60.80	-6.2	-
Capita	16.63	-6.0	-
Spirent Communications	148.70	-5.8	-
Direct Line Insurance	150.10	-5.4	-
Marshalls	261.20	-5.2	-4.9
Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings	335.20	-5.1	117.6
Liontrust Asset Management	627.00	-5.0	-
Wh Smith	1390.00	-4.9	-6.6

FTSE SmallCap	Sep 06 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Kin And Carta	93.40	13.9	-56.6
Tullow Oil	37.96	11.0	2.9
Ao World	96.85	10.5	86.3
Costain	59.80	9.9	50.1
Hunting	258.50	6.6	-
Halfords	192.30	5.6	-7.9
Asos	423.90	4.8	-
Gore Street Energy Storage Fund	83.50	4.4	-
Alfa Fin Software Holdings	156.00	4.3	-6.3
Pensionbee	72.20	4.0	33.6
Abrdn China Investment	460.00	4.0	-17.0
Life Science Reit	64.40	3.9	-
Losers			
Superdry	47.00	-16.2	-
Hochschild Mining	84.00	-10.4	20.5
Funding Circle Holdings	40.50	-9.6	-
Enquest	15.21	-9.4	-
Severfield	62.60	-9.3	1.0
Luceco	115.40	-9.0	18.6
Phoenix Spree Deutschland	161.00	-8.5	-
Marston's	30.20	-8.1	-
De La Rue	54.00	-6.9	-
Oxford Biomedica	303.00	-6.5	-
Helical	225.00	-6.1	-
Rank	85.00	-6.0	3.8

Industry Sectors	Sep 06 price(p)	%Chg week	%Chg ytd
Winners			
Oil & Gas Producers	8680.18	3.9	6.9
Industrial Engineering	13959.91	1.3	1.1
Media	9893.73	1.1	8.8
Automobiles & Parts	1817.73	1.0	22.0
Industrial Metals	6193.78	0.8	-
Electronic & Electrical Equip.	9214.50	0.6	6.6
General Financial	12828.98	0.4	10.9
Equity Investment Instruments	10820.28	0.4	-3.9
Software & Computer Services	2101.26	0.2	18.7
Aerospace & Defense	7283.41	0.2	42.0
Mobile Telecommunications	1926.33	-0.2	-9.9
Real Estate & Investment Servic	2203.78	-0.4	3.6
Losers			
Industrial Transportation	3782.93	-5.1	9.0
Mining	8894.12	-4.3	-
Beverages	24673.26	-4.3	-
Life Insurance	5907.79	-4.2	-
Personal Goods	29316.86	-4.2	-4.4
Construction & Materials	8704.78	-3.2	26.7
Household Goods	10407.29	-2.5	4.8
Electricity	9688.00	-2.5	-9.2
Health Care Equip.& Services	10074.35	-2.3	-7.9
Nonlife Insurance	3062.64	-2.1	-8.6
Tobacco	28471.20	-1.8	-
Food & Drug Retailers	4095.95	-1.7	-0.6

Based on last week's performance. †Price at suspension.

CURRENCIES

Sep 6	Currency	DOLLAR Closing Mid	DOLLAR Day's Change	EURO Closing Mid	EURO Day's Change	POUND Closing Mid	POUND Day's Change
Argentina	Argentine Peso	350.0161	0.0040	374.7977	-0.0117	437.1703	-2.2507
Australia	Australian Dollar	1.5685	-0.0003	1.6796	-0.0003	1.9591	-0.0104
Bahrain	Bahrainin Dinar	0.3770	-	0.4037	0.0000	0.4709	-0.0024
Bolivia	Bolivian Boliviano	6.9100	-	7.3992	-0.0003	8.6306	-0.0445
Brazil	Brazilian Real	4.9749	-0.0005	5.3271	-0.0008	6.2137	-0.0327
Canada	Canadian Dollar	1.3665	0.0029	1.4633	0.0030	1.7068	-0.0052
Chile	Chilean Peso	874.5000	2.6400	936.4159	2.7869	1092.2512	-2.3215
China	Chinese Yuan	7.3095	0.0025	7.8271	0.0024	9.1296	-0.0439
Colombia	Colombian Peso	4097.0700	-5.7800	4387.1483	-6.3781	5117.2437	-33.6624
Costa Rica	Costa Rican Colon	536.7750	0.0250	574.7794	0.0021	670.4324	-3.4280
Czech Republic	Czech Koruna	22.7041	0.1220	24.3115	0.1295	28.3574	0.0068
Denmark	Danish Krone	6.9638	0.0030	7.4568	0.0028	8.6977	-0.0412
Egypt	Egyptian Pound	30.8998	0.0007	33.0875	-0.0007	38.5939	-0.1983
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8429	0.0036	8.3982	0.0034	9.7959	-0.0461
Hungary	Hungarian Forint	363.5600	1.0676	389.3005	1.1265	454.0867	-1.0028
India	Indian Rupee	83.1463	0.1088	89.0331	0.1126	103.8497	-0.3993
Indonesia	Indonesian Rupiah	15292.5000	27.5000	16375.2419	28.7486	19100.3725	-64.0216
Israel	Israeli Shekel	3.8269	0.0269	4.0978	0.0286	4.7797	0.0091
Japan	Japanese Yen	147.6300	-0.0550	158.0824	-0.0657	184.3900	-1.0205
..One Month		147.6292	-0.0565	158.0818	-0.0668	184.3891	-1.0224
..Three Month		147.6279	-0.0593	158.0808	-0.0689	184.3873	-1.0258
..One Year		147.6216	-0.0718	158.0762	-0.0781	184.3891	-1.0323
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling	146.0500	0.1000	156.3905	0.1004	182.4166	-0.8157
Kuwait	Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3086	-	0.3304	0.0000	0.3854	-0.0020
Malaysia	Malaysian Ringgit	4.6740	0.0115	5.0049	0.0121	5.8378	-0.0157
Mexico	Mexican Peso	17.5778	0.1898	18.8223	0.2024	21.9546	0.1249
New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	1.7037	0.0022	1.8243	0.0022	2.1279	-0.0083
Nigeria	Nigerian Naira	765.5000	-	819.6985	-0.0351	956.1101	-4.9335
Norway	Norwegian Krone	10.7420	-0.0098	11.5025	-0.0109	13.4167	-0.0815
Pakistan	Pakistani Rupee	307.4250	-0.3100	329.1911	-0.3461	383.9741	-2.3705
Peru	Peruvian Nuevo Sol	3.7039	0.0014	3.9661	0.0013	4.6262	-0.0221
Philippines	Philippine Peso	56.9400	0.1160	60.9714	0.1216	71.1181	-0.2213
Poland	Polish Zloty	4.2679	0.0684	4.5700	0.0731	5.3305	0.0584
Romania	Romanian Leu	4.6340	0.0067	4.9621	0.0070	5.7879	-0.0214
Russia	Russian Ruble	98.2000	0.2250	105.1527	0.2364	122.6519	-0.3504
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	3.7509	-0.0001	4.0165	-0.0003	4.6849	-0.0243
Singapore	Singapore Dollar	1.3645	0.0029	1.4611	0.0030	1.7043	-0.0052
South Africa	South African Rand	19.2500	-0.0188	20.6129	-0.0210	24.0433	-0.1476
South Korea	South Korean Won	1330.6000	0.0500	1424.8085	-0.0073	1661.9205	-8.5127
Sweden	Swedish Krona	11.1319	0.0027	11.9201	0.0023	13.9038	-0.0684
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	0.8930	0.0038	0.9563	0.0041	1.1154	-0.0009
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar	31.9610	0.0600	34.2239	0.0628	39.9193	-0.1307
Thailand	Thai Baht	35.5150	0.0525	38.0295	0.0546	44.3583	-0.1630
Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	3.1400	-0.0091	3.3623	-0.0099	3.9218	-0.0317
Turkey	Turkish Lira	26.8200	0.0220	28.7189	0.0223	33.4982	-0.1452
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham	3.6729	-0.0001	3.9330	-0.0003	4.5875	-0.0238
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling	0.8006	0.0041	0.8573	0.0044	-	-
..One Month		0.8007	0.0041	0.8572	0.0044	-	-
..Three Month		0.8007	0.0041	0.8570	0.0044	-	-
..One Year		0.8005	0.0042	0.8556	0.0044	-	-
United States	United States Dollar	-	-	1.0708	0.0000	1.2490	-0.0064
..One Month		-	-	1.0706	-0.1846	1.2490	-0.0064
..Three Month		-	-	1.0703	-0.1846	1.2490	-0.0064
..One Year		-	-	1.0688	-0.1846	1.2488	-0.0064
Vietnam	Vietnamese Dong	24060.0000	-0.5000	25763.5014	-1.6595	30050.9664	-155.7685
European Union	Euro	0.9339	0.0000	-	-	1.1664	-0.0060
..One Month		0.9337	0.0000	-	-	1.1663	-0.0060
..Three Month		0.9334	0.0000	-	-	1.1661	-0.0060
..One Year		0.9318	0.0000	-	-	1.1647	-0.0059

Rates are derived from WM Reuters Spot Rates and MorningStar (latest rates at time of production). Some values are rounded. Currency redenominated by 1000. The exchange rates printed in this table are also available at www.FT.com/marketsdata

FTSE ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

UK SERIES www.ft.com/equities

Produced in conjunction with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

	£ Strlg Sep 06	Day's chge%	Euro Index	£ Strlg Sep 05	£ Strlg Sep 04	Year ago	Div yield%	Cover	P/E ratio	X/D adj	Total Return
FTSE 100 (100)	7426.14	-0.16	6753.25	7437.93	7452.76	7300.44	3.93	1.96	12.97	241.26	7875.08
FTSE 250 (250)	18451.82	-0.21	16779.88	18491.42	18524.14	18820.84	3.53	0.63	44.73	441.37	15730.07
FTSE 250 ex Inv Co (168)	19044.74	-0.31	17319.08	19103.43	19136.94	19117.60	3.67	0.47	57.39	474.14	16581.74
FTSE 350 (350)	4089.33	-0.17	3718.79	4096.14	4104.18	4041.41	3.87	1.79	14.41	127.94	8595.68
FTSE 350 ex Investment Trusts (265)	4037.78	-0.18	3671.91	4044.90	4052.87	3975.01	3.93	1.84	13.86	128.94	4389.03
FTSE 350 Higher Yield (137)	3450.04	0.00	3137.43	3450.17	3451.25	3501.77	5.62	1.86	9.55	146.84	8273.50
FTSE 350 Lower Yield (213)	4327.25	-0.33	3935.15	4341.75	4357.66	4163.52	2.07	1.59	30.42	86.02	5434.79
FTSE SmallCap (224)	6068.45	-0.53	5518.58	6101.09	6110.04	6256.70	3.80	0.17	158.88	150.11	10471.11
FTSE SmallCap ex Inv Co (115)	4980.04	-0.81	4528.79	5020.71	5023.60	5042.73	3.83	0.55	47.80	126.24	8940.04
FTSE All-Share (574)	4048.70	-0.17	3681.84	4055.78	4063.70	4005.61	3.87	1.76	14.71	126.06	8592.66
FTSE All-Share ex Inv Co (380)	3964.80	-0.18	3605.54	3972.09	3979.85	3904.85	3.93	1.82	13.97	126.29	4375.39
FTSE All-Share ex Multinationals (513)	1045.15	-0.25	788.31	1047.79	1052.01	1097.80	4.34	1.29	17.93	33.18	2298.21
FTSE Fledgling (74)	10425.34	0.16	9480.69	10408.93	10448.44	12013.67	2.98	0.46	73.54	226.67	23081.50
FTSE Fledgling ex Inv Co (31)	14767.58	0.20	13429.47	14737.56	14768.61	15362.91	2.52	-0.49	-80.65	332.67	31760.09
FTSE All-Small (298)	4213.89	-0.50	3832.07	4235.09	4241.79	4370.43	3.76	0.18	150.15	103.58	9323.95
FTSE All-Small ex Inv Co (146)	3744.35	-0.77	3405.07	3773.53	3775.91	3795.20	3.79	0.52	50.77	94.51	8511.56
FTSE AIM All-Share (698)	736.98	-0.42	670.20	740.05	740.59	865.38	1.97	1.22	41.64	9.29	876.77
FTSE All-Share Technology (17)	2192.53	0.47	1887.43	2182.33	2184.64	1997.97	1.75	1.58	36.23	29.75	3223.30
FTSE All-Share Telecommunications (6)	1234.40	-0.15	1062.63	1236.23	1228.57	1777.82	8.50	1.52	7.73	59.61	1982.62
FTSE All-Share Health Care (12)	14023.11	-0.86	12071.78	14144.14	14109.37	13623.59	2.53	1.38	28.52	313.98	13266.48
FTSE All-Share Financials (257)	4531.40	-0.39	3900.86	4548.95	4560.56	4558.55	4.56	2.38	9.20	178.22	5237.58
FTSE All-Share Real Estate (51)	762.28	0.96	686.47	755.06	758.52	941.84	4.75	-2.77	-7.59	26.49	831.74
FTSE All-Share Consumer Discretionary (82)	4993.20	-0.58	4298.39	5022.38	5032.15	4378.45	2.46	1.28	31.88	90.73	5393.28
FTSE All-Share Consumer Staples (22)	17916.30	-0.04	15423.23	17923.60	18044.53	19741.67	4.40	1.59	14.33	555.86	16983.60
FTSE All-Share Industrials (84)	6991.57	-0.17	6018.69	7003.49	7059.55	5910.20	2.22	1.88	24.01	115.61	8238.08
FTSE All-Share Basic Materials (21)	7411.51	-0.27	6380.19	7431.53	7499.70	8039.39	6.32	2.33	6.79	458.29	10714.23
FTSE All-Share Energy (14)	8975.80	0.75	7726.81	8908.90	8792.07	8278.37	4.01	1.59	15.68	272.25	11263.04
FTSE All-Share Utilities (8)	8367.10	0.31	7202.81	8341.17	8406.47	8810.86	5.15	2.02	9.62	331.92	13254.97
FTSE All-Share Software and Computer Services (16)	2374.88	0.51	2044.41	2362.74	2365.77	2160.86	1.73	1.63	35.57	31.95	3693.35
FTSE All-Share Technology Hardware and Equipment (1)	4285.78	-3.48	3689.41	4440.27	4360.53	4741.62	3.66	-0.49	-56.23	89.37	5674.75
FTSE All-Share Telecommunications Equipment (1)	332.40	-0.07	286.15	332.63	338.88	566.89	4.21	1.48	16.09	13.99	493.08
FTSE All-Share Telecommunications Service Providers (5)	1923.41	-0.15	1655.77	1926.32	1912.79	2753.34	8.64	1.52	7.60	93.30	2817.37
FTSE All-Share Health Care Providers (1)	10680.35	-1.62	9194.17	10856.68	10881.87	11143.33	0.24	4.26	99.62	43.16	9951.51
FTSE All-Share Medical Equipment and Services (2)	5335.58	0.71	4593.13	5298.11	5369.07	5399.87	2.82	0.60	59.05	101.88	5250.08
FTSE All-Share Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology (9)	20058.96	-0.94	17267.74	20248.52	20181.59	19425.14	2.52	1.43	27.70	456.10	17093.51
FTSE All-Share Banks (12)	3399.48	-0.43	2926.44	3414.14	3419.61	3286.82	5.66	3.71	4.76	189.40	3170.61
FTSE All-Share Finance and Credit Services (8)	11056.16	1.09	9517.69	10936.68	10955.97	10952.09	1.96	2.03	25.10	219.07	15159.96
FTSE All-Share Investment Banking and Brokerage Services (31)	8576.55	-0.85	7383.12	8649.64	8700.07	8161.15	5.20	2.04	9.42	321.09	12564.81
FTSE All-Share Closed End Investments (194)	11123.79	-0.04	9575.91	11128.17	11149.28	11772.27	3.02	0.44	74.50	224.32	7115.97
FTSE All-Share Life Insurance (6)	6014.80	-1.48	5177.84	6105.11	6156.67	6605.12	5.41	0.66	28.11	289.21	7685.48
FTSE All-Share Nonlife Insurance (6)	3471.09	-0.92	2988.08	3503.42	3473.70	3483.42	4.80	1.23	16.94	65.18	7528.27
FTSE All-Share Real Estate Investment and Services (10)	2082.46	0.39	1792.69	2074.38	2080.95	2377.71	2.39	1.30	32.13	31.45	6326.97
FTSE All-Share Real Estate Investment Trusts (41)	1866.71	1.07	1606.96	1846.97	1855.95	2341.18	5.22	-3.14	-6.09	72.16	2945.81
FTSE All-Share Automobiles and Parts (3)	1827.04	-0.15	1572.81	1829.70	1792.12	1564.20	0.37	-9.29	-29.04	6.77	1907.86
FTSE All-Share Consumer Services (1)	3274.55	-1.32	2818.89	3318.23	3313.29	3038.85	1.87	1.17	45.61	61.00	4230.87
FTSE All-Share Household Goods and Home Construction (11)	8667.07	-0.73	7461.04	8730.52	8784.37	9034.25	8.11	1.56	7.88	311.33	8065.43
FTSE All-Share Leisure Goods (2)	28622.12	-1.00	24639.34	28910.06	29323.66	19197.12	4.12	1.02	23.81	1021.44	33220.24
FTSE All-Share Personal Goods (4)	25133.53	-4.00	21636.19	26180.91	26294.74	24107.48	2.59	2.23	17.35	496.10	20157.92
FTSE All-Share Media (10)	10146.49	0.59	8734.60	10087.22	10047.73	8893.71	2.59	1.93	19.98	234.03	7303.36
FTSE All-Share Retailers (22)	2263.28	-0.40	1948.34	2272.26	2292.50	1897.48	2.51	3.61	11.02	37.59	3007.22
FTSE All-Share Travel and Leisure (29)	7060.49	-1.04	6078.02	7134.70	7167.83	5809.47	0.79	-5.92	-21.38	50.46	7354.99
FTSE All-Share Beverages (5)	24778.47	0.87	21330.53	24565.36	24822.32	28712.38	2.57	2.02	19.19	619.79	20348.81
FTSE All-Share Food Producers (8)	6624.83	-0.88	5702.98	6683.42	6668.34	5910.44	2.37	2.32	18.20	84.77	6535.11
FTSE All-Share Tobacco (2)	28471.25	-0.29	24509.46	28554.01	28537.60	36824.49	8.56	1.64	7.13	1327.07	28293.43
FTSE All-Share Construction and Materials (15)	9178.62	-1.04	7901.41	9274.75	9408.80	7017.47	2.78	0.65	55.18	200.47	11468.54
FTSE All-Share Aerospace and Defense (8)	7619.95	-0.29	6559.63	7642.38	7655.28	4898.70	1.62	3.39	18.23	79.48	9404.37
FTSE All-Share Electronic and Electrical Equipment (11)	10855.73	0.28	9345.15	10825.67	10814.39	9578.51	1.70	2.39	24.54	135.11	10879.84
FTSE All-Share General Industrials (7)	5082.98	0.12	4375.68	5076.91	5126.21	4739.67	3.47	1.42	20.37	106.99	6869.50
FTSE All-Share Industrial Engineering (6)	15368.76	0.24	13230.19	15331.40	15308.15	14551.25	2.04	2.36	20.75	225.43	20926.19
FTSE All-Share Industrial Support Services (30)	9771.29	0.33	8411.61	9739.24	9812.11	9390.93	2.19	1.40	32.45	175.14	11453.49
FTSE All-Share Industrial Transportation (7)	5656.35	-1.01	4869.26	5713.95	5855.93	4772.33	1.73	3.82	15.17	90.85	6022.17
FTSE All-Share Industrial Materials (1)	17653.29	0.86	577.33	17503.27	17503.27	14652.73	1.93	3.34	15.56	231.04	22580.70
FTSE All-Share Industrial Metals and Mining (8)	6672.08	-0.32	5743.65	6693.32	6746.36	7178.52	6.71	2.44	6.10	443.54	10914.26
FTSE All-Share Precious Metals and Mining (5)	8538.54	0.01	7350.39	8537.44	8590.58	9199.17	3.66	-1.34	-20.38	294.42	6207.85
FTSE All-Share Chemicals (7)	10751.07	0.10	9255.05	10740.45	10989.33	12725.92	3.32	1.62	18.57	269.95	11046.11
FTSE All-Share Oil. Gas and Coal (13)	8713.97	0.75	7501.41	8649.01	8535.60	8036.25	4.01	1.59	15.67	264.33	11340.05
FTSE Sector Indices											
Non Financials (317)	**4942.80**	**-0.11**	**4494.93**	**4948.37**	**4957.16**	**4865.93**	**3.67**	**1.53**	**17.83**	**142.18**	**9211.41**

Hourly movements	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	High/day	Low/day
FTSE 100	7401.01	7372.97	7379.32	7385.23	7388.92	7393.39	7411.99	7435.77	7429.80	7447.92	7369.87
FTSE 250	18422.27	18383.55	18376.79	18395.30	18392.00	18409.35	18426.19	18510.38	18473.60	18515.62	18360.07
FTSE SmallCap	6095.70	6094.21	6084.60	6078.74	6076.22	6076.55	6086.84	6094.57	6083.98	6097.11	6068.45
FTSE All-Share	4036.70	4022.68	4025.23	4028.41	4029.97	4032.54	4041.72	4055.27	4051.27	4060.33	4020.81

Time of FTSE 100 Day's high:14:11:15 Day's Low08:33:45 FTSE 100 2010/11 High: 8014.31(20/02/2023) Low: 7256.94(07/07/2023)

Time of FTSE All-Share Day's high:14:12:00 Day's Low08:41:00 FTSE 100 2010/11 High: 4377.36(16/02/2023) Low: 3953.40(21/08/2023)

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FT 30 INDEX

	Sep 06	Sep 05	Sep 04	Sep 01	Aug 31	Yr Ago	High	Low
FT 30	2646.90	2661.10	2677.20	2679.80	2682.10	0.00	2895.30	2454.10
FT 30 Div Yield	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	3.93	2.74
P/E Ratio net	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	19.44	14.26

FT 30 hourly changes

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	High	Low
2661.1	2636.5	2636.9	2639.9	2639	2638.1	2643.5	2651.8	2650.4	2661.1	2633.5

FT30 constituents and recent additions/deletions can be found at www.ft.com/ft30

FT WILSHIRE 5000 INDEX SERIES

	Sep 05		Sep 05
FT Wilshire 5000	45357.10	FT Wilshire Mid Cap	5637.32
FT Wilshire 2500	5821.27	FT Wilshire Small Cap	5176.20
FT Wilshire Mega Cap	5963.38	FT Wilshire Micro Cap	4632.03
FT Wilshire Large Cap	5911.01		

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FTSE GLOBAL EQUITY INDEX SERIES

Sep 6 Regions & countries	No of stocks	US $ indices	Day %	Mth %	YTD %	Total retn	YTD %	Gr Div Yield
FTSE Global All Cap	9477	764.22	-0.7	-0.9	12.3	1247.18	14.2	2.1
FTSE Global All Cap	9477	764.22	-0.7	-0.9	12.3	1247.18	14.2	2.1
FTSE Global Large Cap	1936	694.58	-0.5	-0.4	14.2	1168.74	16.2	2.1
FTSE Global Mid Cap	2229	941.03	-1.1	-2.0	6.6	1444.33	8.2	2.1
FTSE Global Small Cap	5312	975.66	-1.5	-2.4	8.2	1429.98	9.8	2.0
FTSE All-World	4165	451.13	-0.6	-0.7	12.8	779.82	14.7	2.1
FTSE World	2655	823.90	-0.6	-0.5	13.8	1910.75	15.7	2.1
FTSE Global All Cap ex UNITED KINGDOM In	9197	808.69	-0.7	-0.8	12.7	1293.64	14.5	2.0
FTSE Global All Cap ex USA	7696	518.55	-0.9	-2.4	6.0	946.58	8.6	3.1
FTSE Global All Cap ex JAPAN	8056	796.51	-0.7	-0.9	12.4	1311.52	14.2	2.1
FTSE Global All Cap ex Eurozone	8838	808.85	-0.7	-0.6	12.5	1290.00	14.2	2.0
FTSE Developed	2144	757.78	-0.6	-0.5	14.0	1244.00	15.8	2.0
FTSE Developed All Cap	5758	785.34	-0.7	-0.7	13.5	1269.98	15.2	2.0
FTSE Developed Large Cap	812	720.41	-0.4	-0.1	15.8	1203.78	17.7	2.0
FTSE Developed Europe Large Cap	205	410.38	-0.9	-3.1	8.4	837.77	11.6	3.3
FTSE Developed Europe Mid Cap	345	607.44	-1.1	-4.1	7.2	1072.99	10.0	3.1
FTSE Dev Europe Small Cap	734	816.73	-1.0	-5.3	2.1	1386.59	4.8	3.2
FTSE North America Large Cap	233	982.12	-0.2	0.9	19.5	1495.12	20.9	1.5
FTSE North America Mid Cap	411	1165.13	-1.1	-1.8	6.7	1641.88	7.9	1.7
FTSE North America Small Cap	1311	1163.72	-1.9	-2.5	9.6	1569.60	10.8	1.6
FTSE North America	644	631.48	-0.4	0.4	17.0	983.03	18.4	1.6
FTSE Developed ex North America	1500	279.85	-0.9	-2.5	7.6	550.17	10.2	3.1
FTSE Japan Large Cap	175	421.10	-0.7	-0.1	13.5	628.74	15.1	2.2
FTSE Japan Mid Cap	340	572.99	-0.7	1.3	8.3	814.78	10.0	2.3
FTSE Global wi JAPAN Small Cap	906	638.42	-0.5	1.6	7.4	944.00	9.3	2.5
FTSE Japan	515	172.21	-0.7	0.2	12.5	288.07	14.1	2.2
FTSE Asia Pacific Large Cap ex Japan	1122	676.38	-1.1	-3.0	0.7	1264.56	3.0	3.0
FTSE Asia Pacific Mid Cap ex Japan	838	1012.04	-0.6	-1.4	5.2	1822.89	7.3	2.8
FTSE Asia Pacific Small Cap ex Japan	2088	574.18	-0.5	-0.7	7.5	1003.13	9.7	2.5
FTSE Asia Pacific Ex Japan	1960	541.60	-1.0	-2.8	1.2	1076.06	3.5	3.0
FTSE Emerging All Cap	3719	725.51	-0.8	-2.5	3.0	1299.76	5.6	3.1
FTSE Emerging Large Cap	1124	661.31	-0.9	-3.0	1.7	1191.99	4.3	3.1
FTSE Emerging Mid Cap	897	1091.93	-0.5	-1.1	6.8	1965.78	9.5	3.2
FTSE Emerging Small Cap	1698	820.79	-0.2	0.0	9.0	1404.45	11.6	2.9
FTSE Emerging Europe	151	147.63	0.1	4.3	14.9	320.70	19.0	2.8
FTSE Latin America All Cap	250	777.03	-1.5	-5.0	11.3	1621.63	16.4	6.9
FTSE Middle East and Africa All Cap	333	696.25	-0.5	-3.8	-3.9	1313.40	-1.1	3.7
FTSE Global wi UNITED KINGDOM All Cap In	280	327.93	-0.7	-3.3	4.4	692.78	7.6	3.9
FTSE Global wi USA All Cap	1781	1081.76	-0.5	0.2	16.8	1586.69	18.0	1.5
FTSE Europe All Cap	1470	462.38	-0.9	-3.3	7.8	905.62	10.9	3.2
FTSE Eurozone All Cap	639	457.67	-1.0	-4.1	10.5	889.36	13.7	3.1
FTSE EDHEC-Risk Efficient All-World	4165	486.95	-1.0	-1.9	5.1	783.63	7.1	2.6
FTSE EDHEC-Risk Efficient Developed Europe	550	335.10	-1.1	-3.9	6.8	606.51	9.8	3.4
Oil & Gas	137	421.94	0.3	3.2	3.3	895.96	6.6	4.0
Oil & Gas Producers	90	429.71	0.5	4.2	5.5	938.60	9.0	4.0

Sep 6 Sectors	No of stocks	US $ indices	Day %	Mth %	YTD %	Total retn	YTD %	Gr Div Yield
Oil Equipment & Services	26	284.36	-0.1	1.0	2.3	545.86	5.5	4.7
Basic Materials	404	599.57	-1.3	-1.9	0.3	1137.79	3.1	3.9
Chemicals	202	810.68	-1.2	-1.2	4.0	1468.75	6.1	2.9
Forestry & Paper	19	243.68	-1.8	-1.2	-3.3	507.99	-0.6	4.0
Industrial Metals & Mining	104	544.38	-1.3	-1.2	10.1	1076.01	13.3	3.7
Mining	79	877.12	-1.3	-3.7	-10.2	1778.25	-6.8	5.7
Industrials	810	533.03	-1.2	-2.7	9.3	865.08	11.0	2.0
Construction & Materials	162	646.83	-1.7	-3.8	16.1	1108.85	18.1	1.9
Aerospace & Defense	36	944.30	-1.1	-1.5	4.4	1493.40	5.6	1.5
General Industrials	79	268.43	-1.4	-1.8	12.5	484.00	14.6	2.3
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	158	642.20	-0.8	-2.9	7.1	935.12	8.4	1.6
Industrial Engineering	160	1097.02	-1.3	-1.9	11.6	1773.94	13.3	2.0
Industrial Transportation	128	936.13	-1.8	-5.1	3.8	1566.94	6.4	3.4
Support Services	87	556.04	-0.9	-2.0	10.0	837.26	11.2	1.5
Consumer Goods	562	584.97	-0.5	-3.4	8.8	1003.88	10.7	2.4
Automobiles & Parts	133	612.09	1.2	-1.8	40.4	1010.94	43.3	1.9
Beverages	71	756.23	-0.9	-4.1	-2.4	1310.26	-0.8	2.5
Food Producers	136	692.11	-1.0	-4.4	-4.0	1219.71	-2.0	2.7
Household Goods & Home Construction	61	570.10	-1.9	-3.1	6.1	980.25	8.2	2.5
Leisure Goods	54	257.05	-0.7	-3.6	11.9	367.46	13.0	1.2
Personal Goods	94	936.76	-1.4	-5.1	1.3	1463.17	2.6	1.9
Tobacco	13	928.15	-0.7	-1.3	-7.0	2764.48	-3.7	6.7
Health Care	339	727.07	-0.9	0.2	-0.2	1176.19	1.2	1.8
Health Care Equipment & Services	133	1351.69	-0.9	-3.3	-2.0	1671.13	-1.4	1.1
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	206	499.81	-0.8	2.6	1.0	873.42	2.8	2.3
Consumer Services	424	596.01	-0.8	-2.0	16.1	859.87	17.2	1.1
Food & Drug Retailers	69	292.58	-1.6	-6.6	-6.9	475.01	-5.1	2.6
General Retailers	139	1070.59	-0.9	-1.2	20.2	1475.48	21.1	0.9
Media	75	343.17	-0.4	-2.0	18.4	498.53	19.6	1.2
Travel & Leisure	141	508.30	-0.7	-2.4	14.8	749.96	15.9	1.2
Telecommunication	82	122.66	-0.8	-0.3	-4.7	299.01	-1.7	4.7
Fixed Line Telecommuniations	29	93.52	-0.9	0.5	-7.1	264.38	-3.4	5.8
Mobile Telecommunications	53	146.75	-0.7	-0.6	-3.5	306.69	-0.8	4.1
Utilities	203	299.46	-1.5	-3.6	-7.0	721.79	-4.4	3.8
Electricity	146	336.46	-1.5	-3.5	-7.9	797.09	-5.5	3.6
Gas Water & Multiutilities	57	300.88	-1.5	-3.8	-4.7	754.06	-1.7	4.2
Financials	849	265.64	-0.9	-2.2	2.4	525.31	5.0	3.3
Banks	272	195.67	-1.0	-4.9	-1.3	436.24	2.5	4.6
Nonlife Insurance	71	380.39	-1.1	0.1	4.0	651.86	6.6	2.9
Life Insurance	51	216.30	-1.6	-4.1	-5.0	430.76	-2.1	3.9
Financial Services	211	469.10	-0.7	0.4	10.6	722.49	11.9	1.6
Technology	355	639.98	0.2	2.6	44.7	841.72	45.7	0.8
Software & Computer Services	179	958.81	0.5	2.6	41.5	1165.81	42.1	0.5
Technology Hardware & Equipment	176	572.01	-0.1	2.6	48.3	811.77	49.6	1.1
Alternative Energy	21	121.25	-1.6	-12.1	-33.7	174.67	-33.5	0.4
Real Estate Investment & Services	137	245.01	-0.8	-0.9	-2.4	487.74	-0.4	2.7
Real Estate Investment Trusts	107	422.45	-1.0	-1.7	-3.0	1020.36	-0.5	4.1
FTSE Global Large Cap	1936	694.58	-0.5	-0.4	14.2	1168.74	16.2	2.1

The FTSE Global Equity Series, launched in 2003, contains the FTSE Global Small Cap Indices and broader FTSE Global All Cap Indices (large/mid/small cap) as well as the enhanced FTSE All-World index Series (large/mid cap) - please see https://research.ftserussell.com/Products/indices/Home/indexfiltergeis?indexName=GEISAC&currency=USD&rtn=CAP&segment=global-developed--emerging. The trade names Fundamental Index® and RAFI® are registered trademarks and the patented and patent-pending proprietary intellectual property of Research Affiliates, LLC (US Patent Nos. 7,620,577; 7,747,502; 7,778,905; 7,792,719; Patent Pending Publ. Nos. US-2006-0149645-A1, US-2007-0055598-A1, US-2008-0288416-A1, US-2010- 0063942-A1, WO 2005/076812, WO 2007/078399 A2, WO 2008/118372, EPN 1733352, and HK1099110). "EDHEC™" is a trade mark of EDHEC Business School As of January 2nd 2006, FTSE is basing its sector indices on the Industrial Classification Benchmark - please see www.ftse.com/icb. For constituent changes and other information about FTSE, please see www.ftse.com. © FTSE International Limited. 2013. All Rights reserved. "FTSE®" is a trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and is used by FTSE International Limited under licence.

FTSE SECTORS: LEADERS & LAGGARDS

Year to date percentage changes

Aerospace & Defense	41.65	Oil Equipment & Serv	5.14	Equity Invest Instr	-3.88
Construct & Material	26.15	Banks	4.73	Health Care	-4.33
Leisure Goods	24.09	Industrial Eng	4.38	Pharmace & Biotech	-4.33
Automobiles & Parts	22.11	Support Services	3.84	Health Care Eq & Srv	-4.62
Software & Comp Serv	19.57	Real Est Invest & Se	2.47	Personal Goods	-4.89
General Retailers	18.86	Gas Water & Multi	1.12	Nonlife Insurance	-7.88
Food & Drug Retailer	18.04	Household Goods & Ho	0.71	Consumer Goods	-8.27
Industrials	13.20	Beverages	31.66	Real Est Invest & Tr	-8.56
Food Producers	12.81	FTSE 100 Index	-0.34	Electricity	-9.20
Consumer Services	12.58	NON FINANCIALS Index	-0.63	Telecommunications	-9.77
Travel & Leisure	11.71	FTSE All{HY-}Share Index	-0.65	Beverages	-11.36
Technology	11.48	Financials	-1.24	Mobile Telecomms	-12.20
Media	9.08	Industrial Metals &	-1.29	Life Insurance	-16.14
Oil & Gas Producers	6.88	Utilities	-1.67	Chemicals	-16.83
Oil & Gas	6.86	FTSE 250 Index	-2.13	Tobacco	-20.13
Electronic & Elec Eq	5.85	FTSE SmallCap Index	-2.75	Basic Materials	-20.69
Financial Services	5.58	Fixed Line Telecomms	-3.05	Mining	-21.20
		Industrial Transport	-3.24	Tech Hardware & Eq	-31.69

FTSE 100 SUMMARY

FTSE 100	Closing Price	Day's Change	FTSE 100	Closing Price	Day's Change
3I Group PLC	1957	-26.50	Jd Sports Fashion PLC	139.30	-1.65
Abrdn PLC	157.70	-3.35	Johnson Matthey PLC	1782	63.50
Admiral Group PLC	2404	10.00	Kingfisher PLC	227.70	0.10
Airtel Africa PLC	115.70	1.40	Land Securities Group PLC	585.20	10.20
Anglo American PLC	2086	-15.50	Legal & General Group PLC	213.90	-2.10
Antofagasta PLC	1496	18.00	Lloyds Banking Group PLC	41.50	-0.27
Ashtead Group PLC	5234	-76.00	London Stock Exchange Group PLC	8264	106.00
Associated British Foods PLC	1957.5	-36.50	M&G PLC	191.75	0.75
Astrazeneca PLC	10606	-130.00	Melrose Industries PLC	509.00	3.60
Auto Trader Group PLC	595.60	-0.80	Mondi PLC	1296	-2.50
Aviva PLC	369.90	-1.60	National Grid PLC	973.20	4.20
B&M European Value Retail S.A.	557.00	9.20	Natwest Group PLC	227.90	-2.10
Bae Systems PLC	1014	4.00	Next PLC	7008	-34.00
Barclays PLC	149.22	-0.42	Ocado Group PLC	847.00	-10.80
Barratt Developments PLC	440.00	-3.30	Pearson PLC	860.60	8.40
Beazley PLC	541.00	-9.50	Pershing Square Holdings LTD	3044	28.00
Berkeley Group Holdings (The) PLC	3984	-25.00	Persimmon PLC	1030.5	-13.00
BP PLC	515.90	4.40	Phoenix Group Holdings PLC	510.60	-2.80
British American Tobacco PLC	2583.5	-3.00	Prudential PLC	933.20	-21.60
Bt Group PLC	114.10	-0.10	Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC	5678	-18.00
Bunzl PLC	2813	47.00	Relx PLC	2637	32.00
Burberry Group PLC	2085	-103.00	Rentokil Initial PLC	585.60	-0.20
Centrica PLC	156.05	0.05	Rightmove PLC	565.20	4.00
Coca-Cola Hbc AG	2225	15.00	Rio Tinto PLC	4978.5	3.50
Compass Group PLC	1986.5	-26.50	Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC	214.70	-4.50
Convatec Group PLC	231.20	1.80	Rs Group PLC	749.60	-3.40
Crh PLC	4377	-53.00	Sage Group PLC	990.40	17.40
Croda International PLC	5218	-66.00	Sainsbury (J) PLC	265.50	0.10
Dcc PLC	4289	24.00	Schroders PLC	406.90	-4.40
Diageo PLC	3175.5	28.00	Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust PLC	689.00	-1.40
Endeavour Mining PLC	1588	10.00	Segro PLC	727.00	12.00
Entain PLC	1158.5	-8.50	Severn Trent PLC	2368	5.00
Experian PLC	2787	30.00	Shell PLC	2489	20.00
F&C Investment Trust PLC	866.00	-2.00	Smith & Nephew PLC	1043.5	7.00
Flutter Entertainment PLC	13960	-95.00	Smith (Ds) PLC	304.50	-3.40
Frasers Group PLC	804.50	1.50	Smiths Group PLC	1650	14.50
Fresnillo PLC	557.20	-5.60	Smurfit Kappa Group PLC	3218	-36.00
Glaxosmithkline PLC	1376.6	-4.80	Spirax-Sarco Engineering PLC	9910	8.00
Glencore PLC	429.45	-2.75	Sse PLC	1590	8.00
Haleon PLC	312.80	-1.25	St. James's Place PLC	854.20	-19.80
Halma PLC	2162	11.00	Standard Chartered PLC	702.40	-1.20
Hargreaves Lansdown PLC	741.20	-13.20	Taylor Wimpey PLC	112.90	-0.50
Hiscox LTD	980.50	-15.50	Tesco PLC	257.00	0.70
HSBC Holdings PLC	585.30	-2.20	Unilever PLC	3981.5	-13.00
Imi PLC	1490	-8.00	Unite Group PLC	915.50	1.50
Imperial Brands PLC	1744.5	-16.00	United Utilities Group PLC	927.00	-0.80
Informa PLC	730.80	-7.00	Vodafone Group PLC	73.36	-0.09
Intercontinental Hotels Group PLC	6066	-2.00	Weir Group PLC	1910.5	14.00
International Consolidated Airlines Group S.A.	153.75	-5.90	Whitbread PLC	3554	-11.00
Intertek Group PLC	4140	-25.00	Wpp PLC	765.00	-1.80

UK STOCK MARKET TRADING DATA

	Sep 06	Sep 05	Sep 04	Sep 01	Aug 31	Yr Ago
Order Book Turnover (m)	89.45	83.65	124.14	124.14	124.14	94.28
Order Book Bargains	464968.00	333707.00	407501.00	407501.00	407501.00	427789.00
Order Book Shares Traded (m)	1197.00	987.00	1238.00	1238.00	1238.00	2311.00
Total Equity Turnover (£m)	4358.88	3072.15	5769.56	5769.56	5769.56	6572.82
Total Mkt Bargains	644047.00	490290.00	583370.00	583370.00	583370.00	618974.00
Total Shares Traded (m)	6169.00	5472.00	4994.00	4994.00	4994.00	5760.00

† Excluding intra-market and overseas turnover. *UK only total at 6pm. ‡ UK plus intra-market turnover. (u) Unavaliable. (c) Market closed.

All data provided by Morningstar unless otherwise noted. All elements listed are indicative and believed accurate at the time of publication. No offer is made by Morningstar or the FT. The FT does not warrant nor guarantee that the information is reliable or complete. The FT does not accept responsibility and will not be liable for any loss arising from the reliance on or use of the listed information.
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UK RIGHTS OFFERS

Issue price	Amount paid up	Latest renun. date	High	Low	Stock	closing Price p	+or-

There are currently no rights offers by any companies listed on the LSE.

UK COMPANY RESULTS

Company		Turnover		Pre-tax		EPS(p)		Div(p)		Pay day	Total	
Ashmore Group	Pre	**193.200**	254.400	**111.800**	118.400	**12.430**	13.420	**0.00000**	12.10000	-	**4.800**	16.900
Bakkavor Group	Int	**1090.400**	1010.200	**32.600**	32.500	**4.400**	4.400	**0.00000**	2.77000	-	**4.160**	6.730
Barratt Developments	Pre	**5321.400**	5267.900	**705.100**	642.300	**53.200**	50.600	**0.00000**	25.70000	-	**10.200**	36.900
Gateley (Holdings)	Pre	**162.683**	137.249	**16.212**	26.776	**9.770**	19.350	**0.00000**	5.50000	-	**3.300**	8.500
Hochschild Mining	Int	**314.023**	347.781	**66.115L**	5.370	**0.000**	0.000	**0.00000**	2.03200	-	**0.000**	4.600
Kodal Minerals	Pre	**0.000**	0.000	**1.461L**	0.903L	**0.009L**	0.006L	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**0.000**	0.000
M Winkworth	Int	**4.267**	4.281	**0.811**	1.072	**4.330**	6.260	**2.90000**	2.70000	Aug 16	**5.800**	5.400
Merit Group	Pre	**18.585**	17.598	**3.657L**	1.677L	**11.210L**	7.030L	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**0.000**	0.000
Mid Wynd International Inv Trust	Pre			**24.930**	38.462L	**36.870**	62.750L	**0.00000**	3.70000	-	**3.850**	7.200
Nexteq	Int	**56.291**	53.288	**5.138**	2.841	**0.065**	0.033	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**3.600**	3.200
Oxford Nanopore Technologies	Int	**86.002**	122.348	**66.559L**	27.626L	**8.000L**	4.000L	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**0.000**	0.000
PowerHouse Energy Group	Int	**0.000**	0.353	**0.577L**	0.899L	**0.010L**	0.020L	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**0.000**	0.000
Restaurant Group (The)	Int	**467.400**	423.400	**2.300**	28.500L	**0.200L**	3.400L	**0.00000**	0.00000	-	**0.000**	0.000
Trafalgar Property Group	A	**0.660**	0.948	**0.102L**	0.208	**50000.000L**	0.000	**0.00000**	0.00000	-		

Figures in £m. Earnings shown basic. Figures in light text are for corresponding period year earlier.
For more information on dividend payments visit www.ft.com/marketsdata

UK RECENT EQUITY ISSUES

Issue date	Issue price(p)	Sector	Stock code	Stock	Close price(p)	+/-	High	Low	Mkt Cap (£m)
09/05	10.00	AIM	TRYB	Tribe Technology PLC	10.63	-	11.10	10.26	0.0
07/31	0.05	AIM	MET1	Metals One PLC	4.45	0.23	5.70	4.00	927.6

§Placing price. *Intoduction. ‡When issued. Annual report/prospectus available at www.ft.com/ir
For a full explanation of all the other symbols please refer to London Share Service notes.

MARKET DATA

FT500: THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMPANIES

Stock	Price	Day Chg	52 Week High	52 Week Low	Yld	P/E	MCap m
Australia (A$)							
ANZ Bank	25.06	-0.14	26.08	22.21	6.33	9.99	48015.62
BHP Group	46.10	-	50.05	36.13	9.38	10.29	148976.04
CmwBkAu	101.51	-0.71	111.38	89.66	3.63	18.14	108478.13
CSL	271.20	0.36	314.21	255.87	1.17	36.91	83499.83
NatAusBk	28.66	-0.35	32.83	25.10	3.30	14.51	57320
Telstra	3.95	-0.08	4.46	3.71	2.66	30.54	29097.86
Wesfarmers	53.71	-0.15	54.28	42.43	3.49	26.25	38831.2
Westpac Bank	21.19	-0.34	24.50	20.03	4.41	14.65	47406.65
Woolworths	38.09	0.02	40.35	31.67	2.98	41.29	29595.39
Belgium (€)							
AnBshInBv	52.46	0.61	62.01	45.56	1.00	26.72	97585.73
KBC Grp	59.44	-0.56	72.46	46.77	5.67	9.87	26552.18
Brazil (R$)							
Ambev	14.06	0.05	16.88	12.60	3.98	21.36	44523.33
Bradesco	12.84	-0.14	17.72	11.15	6.42	5.98	13757.3
Cielo	3.72	-0.03	6.07	3.64	3.89	12.67	2031.5
ItauHldFin	22.77	-0.18	26.04	19.53	3.38	9.06	22694
Petrobras	37.04	0.22	42.08	23.61	12.87	5.31	55411.9
Vale	68.19	-0.91	96.30	61.00	18.92	3.06	62215.31
Canada (C$)							
Bausch Hlth	11.36	-0.01	13.81	7.56	-	-3.41	3008.29
BCE	55.62	-0.38	65.66	54.62	6.28	18.65	37132.48
BkMontrl	115.06	-1.26	137.64	111.18	3.92	8.86	60359.65
BkNvaS	64.16	-0.35	74.41	61.46	5.77	8.04	56592.89
Brookfield	58.88	11.29	63.88	41.28	1.09	19.91	69948.82
CanadPcR	106.88	-1.38	112.96	90.84	0.71	25.63	72853.66
CanImp	53.62	-0.51	65.24	53.01	11.17	3.72	36259.61
CanNatRs	88.67	-0.45	89.65	61.23	2.25	13.76	70790.47
CanNatRy	150.27	-1.64	175.39	144.71	1.63	21.86	72187.94
Enbridge	45.68	-2.48	56.37	44.86	7.29	15.95	67614.45
GtWesLif	39.46	-0.06	40.75	27.99	4.88	11.10	26878.58
ImpOil	78.55	-0.24	79.83	55.26	1.31	22.63	33578.63
Manulife	25.16	-0.14	27.50	20.81	4.64	7.12	33670.71
Nutrien	86.56	-0.94	124.22	70.69	2.68	12.44	31323.92
RylBkC	121.10	-0.92	140.18	116.75	3.67	10.77	123734.49
SHOP	89.54	-0.21	93.83	33.00	-	3.10	78838
Suncor En	46.84	-	50.37	36.39	2.24	16.95	44593.78
ThmReut	173.22	-0.94	187.70	141.11	1.18	11.95	57715.15
TntoDom	81.73	-1.00	94.05	76.32	3.99	10.25	109299.7
TrnCan	48.24	-1.34	66.19	43.70	7.20	26.00	36621.46
China (HK$)							
AgricBkCh	2.76	0.01	3.28	2.22	7.94	3.51	10817.3
Bk China	2.71	0.03	3.45	2.51	8.44	3.25	28894.01
BkofComm	4.56	0.02	5.65	3.84	7.89	3.65	20356.25
BOE Tech	0.67	-	0.85	0.53	-	10.47	17.00
Ch Coms Cons	3.75	-	5.52	3.09	5.58	3.02	2112.65
Ch Evrbrght	2.29	-0.02	2.78	2.04	10.75	3.00	3701.94
Ch Rail Cons	4.94	0.01	7.46	3.75	5.46	2.55	1307.8
Ch Rail Gp	4.24	-	6.30	3.48	4.99	3.31	2274.56
ChConstBk	4.33	0.05	5.70	4.01	8.82	3.05	132732
China Vanke	10.06	0.42	17.78	8.90	14.55	4.39	2830.25
ChinaCitic	3.59	0.01	4.74	2.92	8.04	3.23	6812.16
ChinaLife	12.48	0.04	15.84	8.53	5.63	5.29	11840.7
ChinaMBank	33.00	0.05	53.00	25.40	4.45	5.90	19316.68
ChinaMob	64.90	-0.15	70.20	46.85	5.10	9.71	169422.3
ChinaPcIns	19.40	0.24	26.50	12.10	6.96	6.13	6864.87
ChMinsheng	2.58	0.02	3.52	2.19	9.80	3.23	2737.04
ChMrchSecs	14.16	-0.07	15.91	12.12	3.37	11.57	14377.83
Chna Utd Coms	5.18	-0.01	6.45	3.32	2.36	23.78	21944.12
ChShenEgy	23.45	-0.05	28.70	20.70	8.99	6.89	10098.5
ChShpbldng	4.20	-0.03	5.32	3.40	-	-285.74	12689.13
ChStConEng	5.73	0.01	7.35	4.68	4.10	4.06	32391.47
ChUncHK	5.34	-0.04	6.58	3.27	3.03	11.40	20833.34
CNNC Intl	7.21	-0.07	7.52	5.81	1.89	17.25	18626.09
CSR	3.90	-0.01	5.26	2.37	5.46	10.39	2173.56
Daqin	7.21	-0.04	8.21	6.36	7.28	9.99	14960.45
GuosenSec	9.23	-0.07	10.90	8.43	2.72	9.71	11539.89
HaitongSecs	4.91	-	6.01	3.77	6.03	5.17	2134.53
Hngzh HikVDT	35.17	-0.36	48.84	28.24	2.49	17.69	43825.32
Hunng Pwr	3.90	0.03	5.28	2.62	5.21	-4.24	2337.31
IM Baotou Stl	1.80	-0.02	2.14	1.76	-	28.05	7756.17
In&CmBkCh	3.74	0.06	4.73	3.35	8.36	3.32	41388.61
IndstrlBk	16.29	0.12	18.27	15.01	5.21	4.09	46297.35
Kweichow	1861	2.30	1935	1359	1.13	38.36	319826.05
Midea	0.33	-0.03	0.44	0.32	-	-3.47	12.67
New Ch Life Ins	20.50	0.10	25.00	12.04	7.69	3.77	2702.96
PetroChina	5.85	0.01	5.99	3.01	4.20	11.44	15737.46
PingAnIns	49.05	0.60	64.15	31.30	5.25	7.56	46577.29
PngAnBnk	11.43	0.04	15.74	10.39	1.67	6.25	30344.65
Pwr Cons Corp	5.18	-0.05	8.38	5.14	1.87	9.85	9263.27
SaicMtr	14.80	0.09	15.72	13.09	4.39	6.78	23656.09
ShenwanHong	0.10	0.00	0.15	0.07	-	2.78	108.37
ShgPdgBk	7.09	0.05	8.22	6.64	7.09	4.15	28470.44
Sinopec Corp	4.61	-0.05	5.47	3.06	3.11	5.39	14565.99
Sinopec Oil	2.15	0.02	2.39	1.82	-	654.17	3991.3
Denmark (kr)							
DanskeBk	155.55	-0.65	170.80	91.28	1.26	10.85	19258.7
MollerMrsk	12710	230.00	17265	11100	2.63	2.11	13620.61
NovoB	1327.4	3.80	1336	734.50	0.69	65.18	327394.65
Finland (€)							
Nokia	3.77	0.02	5.20	3.41	-	13.27	22734.15
SampoA	40.67	0.07	49.97	37.98	4.12	8.84	22252.82
France (€)							
Airbus Grpe	133.94	-0.16	138.76	86.52	-	25.06	113361.02
AirLiquide	164.66	0.88	168.48	114.48	1.64	31.02	92347.56
AXA	27.59	-0.25	30.34	21.79	5.08	9.48	66600.99
BNP Parib	58.60	-0.79	67.02	41.53	4.47	8.62	77453.03
ChristianDior	710.00	-18.00	872.00	578.50	0.97	26.46	137234.27
Cred Agr	11.26	-0.10	12.03	8.11	6.96	6.28	36807.53
Danone	52.73	-0.06	61.88	46.78	3.60	18.31	38269.35
EDF	12.00	-	12.05	7.27	3.97	9.44	53889.44
Engie SA	14.50	-0.08	15.56	11.35	3.58	10.43	37822.17
EssilorLuxottica	172.22	-1.98	188.40	137.05	0.61	53.61	83649.43
Hermes Intl	1833.4	-34.80	2050.5	1161.5	0.24	80.35	207254.64
LOreal	398.20	-5.65	442.60	300.70	0.98	49.53	228530.97
LVMH	731.50	-27.60	904.60	594.90	0.94	31.27	393250.1
Orange	10.55	0.17	11.87	9.08	5.57	3575.70	30056.25
PernodRic	176.60	-2.50	218.00	170.90	1.73	27.22	48340.86
Renault	35.88	0.55	43.96	27.03	-	-27.35	11361.75
Safran	146.04	0.34	152.42	89.45	0.29	1491.23	66814.93
Sanofi	98.24	-0.79	105.18	77.01	3.19	20.28	133021.68
Sant Gbn	57.71	0.12	62.14	35.20	2.31	14.09	31760.3
Schneider	157.74	1.02	167.98	111.24	1.61	28.41	96756.68
SocGen	25.53	-0.15	28.39	19.33	2.12	4.40	22437.51
Total	59.51	-0.39	60.93	46.11	4.45	11.67	159197.86
UnibailR	49.68	0.06	73.09	39.68	-	-7.44	7615.7
Vinci	102.36	0.26	112.40	80.84	2.57	23.18	65373.22
Vivendi	8.34	-0.04	10.22	7.59	7.05	-15.21	9197.66
Germany (€)							
Allianz	221.25	-0.70	228.40	156.22	4.25	14.27	95551.06
BASF	45.81	-0.08	53.77	37.90	7.06	7.74	43776.48
Bayer	50.12	-0.53	65.66	47.01	3.91	50.17	52725.3
BMW	96.30	-0.23	113.46	68.44	1.93	5.24	62076.64
Continental	68.26	-0.42	79.24	44.44	-	10.74	14619.02
Deut Bank	9.57	-0.19	12.36	7.46	-	9.61	20909.72
Deut Tlkm	19.94	0.07	23.13	17.36	2.95	23.41	106480.44
DeutsPost	44.73	0.54	45.03	29.68	3.02	11.57	60466.66
E.ON	11.31	0.07	12.29	7.28	4.07	6.41	31974.25
Fresenius Med	40.68	-1.92	49.62	26.19	3.23	12.55	12781.15
Fresenius SE	28.10	-0.63	30.35	19.76	3.14	9.07	16805.06
HenkelKgaA	63.94	0.36	70.10	56.55	2.80	17.36	17787.45
Linde	356.90	-1.30	363.40	272.55	1.02	56.62	186477.79
Mercedes-Benz	66.24	-0.67	76.10	50.65	2.00	6.76	75883.44
MuenchRkv	358.10	1.00	362.20	231.10	2.68	17.47	52329.26
SAP	128.96	0.70	130.24	81.35	1.40	29.52	169644.83
Siemens	137.26	-0.70	167.00	95.07	2.50	21.08	117582.56
Volkswgn	123.45	-2.30	204.30	123.20	3.81	4.26	39008.05
Hong Kong (HK$)							
AIA	68.80	-0.60	93.65	57.25	1.80	17.02	101119.87
BOC Hold	22.25	0.10	28.25	20.80	5.18	11.04	29994.34
Ch OSLnd&Inv	17.58	0.36	23.75	14.58	6.34	4.22	24532.96
ChngKng	42.20	-0.15	53.85	41.40	3.89	9.34	19158.42
Citic Ltd	7.72	-0.05	10.86	7.01	6.46	3.45	28634.13
Citic Secs	15.78	0.04	19.18	11.82	2.81	7.86	5271.59
CK Hutchison	41.80	0.20	54.55	38.80	5.05	5.12	20412.72
CNOOC	14.00	0.30	14.04	9.28	3.00	11.81	79571.31
HangSeng	98.65	-0.25	135.50	97.00	5.74	15.35	24047.5
HK Exc&Clr	312.00	-0.20	382.40	208.20	2.72	34.01	50435.76
MTR	32.25	0.15	43.00	31.70	3.54	22.57	25552.48
SandsCh	26.45	0.05	31.45	12.50	-	-28.24	27294.6
SHK Props	89.15	0.50	115.90	83.10	5.15	9.85	32938.78
Tencent	327.60	-1.40	411.00	188.69	0.45	12.46	399166.98
India (Rs)							
Bhartiartl	880.30	14.40	901.40	686.20	-	182.45	63364.73
HDFC Bk	1595.5	20.60	1757.5	1365	-	26.26	145333.32
Hind Unilevr	2523.5	16.45	2769.65	2393	1.31	65.63	71310.42
HsngDevFin	2724.3	-23.05	2927.4	2160	0.90	21.87	61324.4
ICICI Bk	957.50	-10.90	1008.7	796.00	0.22	29.49	80614.18
Infosys	1477.45	-1.45	1672.6	1185.3	2.12	28.34	73748.91
ITC	447.45	4.35	499.70	323.25	2.48	36.09	67104.05
L&T	2730.45	-2.50	2766.8	1797.4	0.68	43.97	46160.26
OilNatGas	183.05	-0.05	186.75	123.50	5.13	5.03	27695.99
RelianceIn	2428.7	5.10	2856	2180	0.30	26.98	197637.91
SBI NewA	570.50	-2.50	629.55	499.35	0.72	15.45	61235.33
SunPhrmInds	1142.35	10.45	1169.7	856.80	0.68	41.33	32964.58
Tata Cons	3429.9	0.55	3575	2950.1	1.09	31.80	150941.03
Israel (ILS)							
TevaPha	3665	-16.00	3852	2637	-	-	-
Italy (€)							
Enel	6.10	-0.03	6.38	3.96	5.88	28.99	66440.27
ENI	14.79	-0.04	14.98	10.43	4.46	6.36	53472.46
Generali	18.77	-0.15	19.67	13.67	7.67	10.76	31331.56
IntSPaolo	2.39	-0.06	2.64	1.64	1.50	75.68	46818.96
Unicred	20.94	-1.10	23.30	9.49	0.56	31.74	43506.86
Japan (¥)							
AstellasPh	2223	7.50	2360.5	1823.5	2.45	29.00	27249.76
Bridgestne	5726	17.00	6067	4548	3.43	11.28	27681.61
Canon	3632	32.00	3912	2790.5	3.18	15.23	32813.32
CntJpRwy	18740	-95.00	18955	14920	0.82	-30.44	26149.43
Denso	10335	135.00	10415	6389	1.60	24.54	55160.95
EastJpRwy	8275	19.00	8364	6706	1.43	-7.19	21183.98
Fanuc	4166	-30.00	24645	3999	12.83	4.29	28305.95
FastRetail	34110	280.00	37550	24750	1.82	13.87	73525.15
Fuji Hvy Ind	2942.5	49.00	2963.5	1980	2.25	29.29	15330.9
Hitachi	10140	95.00	10170	5983	1.34	12.88	64443.32
HondaMtr	4960	93.00	5012	3001	3.07	9.09	60859.48
JapanTob	3211	-1.00	3252	2322	5.03	14.16	43500.64
KDDI	4389	22.00	4560	3873	3.23	12.74	68459.02
Keyence	60720	220.00	71890	47240	0.39	43.96	100030.96
MitsbCp	7602	-20.00	7665	3946	2.15	14.70	74021.74
MitsubEst	1061.22	-0.38	1062.17	904.42	-	-	-
MitsubishiEle	1934.5	12.00	2105	1273	2.44	14.98	28136.31
MitsuiFud	1021.15	-1.80	1147.48	776.93	-	-	-
MitUFJFin	1230	12.50	1239.5	632.60	2.50	10.80	105709.44
Mizuho Fin	2513.5	28.50	2528.5	1537	3.67	10.41	43232.43
Murata Mfg	8540	82.00	8736	6438	1.66	14.85	39092.69
Nippon TT	169.10	1.10	178.90	147.48	73.41	0.46	103719.05
Nissan Mt	645.60	12.60	665.00	408.10	-	17.76	18457.57
Nomura	600.40	13.00	607.00	464.30	4.53	-34.98	12865.96
Nppn Stl	3627	-4.00	3679	1960.5	2.61	4.85	23347.67
Panasonic	1734	5.50	1796	1006.5	1.70	14.85	28826.72
Seven & I	5992	-2.00	6619	5246	2.03	19.32	35978.87
ShnEtsuCh	4764	-13.00	21055	3797	7.20	3.87	65318.16
Softbank	6400	-22.00	7297	4766	0.81	4.66	63726.67
Sony	12690	210.00	14100	9213	0.56	13.73	108400.24
SumitomoF	7002	78.00	7039	3962	3.38	11.54	63438.18
Takeda Ph	4524	-26.00	4645	3663	4.70	13.75	48489.7
TokioMarine	3340	36.00	3421	2503	7.79	4.60	45304.82
Toyota	2651	62.00	2664	1764	2.27	10.13	292969.05
Mexico (Mex$)							
AmerMvl	16.40	0.11	20.25	15.66	1.83	14.39	41116.45
FEMSA UBD	192.52	2.42	200.40	121.35	1.00	165.92	23670.26
WalMrtMex	67.33	-0.25	79.15	66.00	0.71	35.37	66884.33
Netherlands (€)							
ASML Hld	616.80	-2.60	698.10	376.10	0.54	48.62	266260.83
Heineken	87.94	-0.34	106.30	78.28	1.09	15.56	54240.02
ING	12.89	-0.10	13.57	8.43	4.56	10.70	49966.53
Unilever	46.46	-0.39	50.93	43.94	3.09	23.85	145935.42
Norway (Kr)							
DNB	210.20	-1.00	213.20	168.05	9.30	11.96	30186.07
Equinor	343.30	1.85	399.95	278.70	1.61	13.18	95975.68
Telenor	112.55	-1.10	134.95	87.60	8.98	16.92	14662.98
Qatar (QR)							
QatarNtBk	15.08	-0.25	21.27	14.31	3.48	11.72	38265.23
Saudi Arabia (SR)							
AlRajhiBnk	72.10	0.20	7317	0.00	3.08	13.20	76886.16
NatnlCombnk	35.60	-0.35	1552.5	0.00	3.77	12.90	56944.8
SaudiBasic	89.80	-0.10	2115	0.00	3.35	12.61	71820.84
SaudiTelec	39.55	0.60	8480	0.00	9.37	7.55	52719.25
Singapore (S$)							
DBS	33.40	0.07	36.40	30.30	3.44	13.85	63128.87
JardnMt US$	47.71	0.35	57.80	42.60	3.32	8.61	13776.13
OCBC	12.57	-	13.39	11.42	3.11	12.68	41414.3
SingTel	2.34	-0.01	2.82	2.31	2.98	39.96	28314.15
UOB	28.60	0.07	31.40	25.91	3.23	12.88	35063.21
South Africa (R)							
Firstrand	71.83	-0.86	74.77	58.60	4.07	11.52	20931.41
MTN Grp	123.09	-0.73	149.42	107.35	-	14.87	12048.57
Naspers N	3346.36	4.31	3567.84	1694.37	0.20	15.95	75707.88
South Korea (KRW)							
HyundMobis	237500	500.00	250000	189500	1.74	8.97	16829.03
KoreaElePwr	17850	-10.00	22750	16500	7.09	-10.10	8611.95
SK Hynix	118200	-1200.00	129000	73100	1.34	8.19	64669.99
SmsungEl	70000	-700.00	73600	51800	2.13	11.74	314057.42
Spain (€)							
BBVA	7.02	-0.14	7.56	4.41	5.18	9.76	44842.64
BcoSantdr	3.41	-0.10	3.87	2.33	2.20	6.97	59043.33
CaixaBnk	3.59	-0.05	4.14	2.95	0.74	24.11	28847.57
Iberdrola	10.69	0.05	12.25	9.09	3.87	18.72	72690.81
Inditex	35.28	-0.14	35.67	20.53	0.61	37.99	117740.47
Repsol	14.60	-0.12	15.54	11.05	4.03	9.09	19963.59
Telefonica	3.76	0.01	4.15	3.22	9.01	2.80	23158.71
Sweden (SKr)							
AtlasCpcoB	130.45	0.30	140.95	89.48	6.34	7.75	18291.24
Ericsson	58.33	0.60	80.45	49.79	4.37	7.65	16151.45
H & M	165.02	-1.86	189.58	98.25	4.32	20.23	21276.78
Investor	214.95	2.50	223.60	158.22	1.85	8.22	35180.45
Nordea Bk	121.30	-0.28	134.94	91.55	13.66	12.59	39003.11
SEB	128.05	-0.90	133.50	101.15	8.94	9.52	24338.36
SvnskaHn	93.34	-0.74	112.90	83.92	6.07	8.15	16306.78
Swedbank	193.65	-1.55	219.90	138.15	8.52	9.20	19692.31
Telia Co	22.04	0.06	37.26	20.98	10.29	6.92	7785.18
Volvo	222.40	1.95	233.85	154.42	3.31	12.89	31735.32
Switzerland (SFr)							
ABB	33.48	0.46	35.74	23.86	2.25	16.89	70555.34
CredSuisse	0.82	0.01	5.86	0.66	11.32	-1.32	3611.19
Nestle	104.20	0.46	116.84	102.78	2.39	19.02	311532.4
Novartis	87.21	-0.58	93.95	73.32	3.13	9.96	222405.06
Richemont	117.00	-6.45	161.10	91.80	1.51	29.34	68388.11
Roche	252.40	-1.50	335.85	249.80	3.15	17.78	198563.15
Swiss Re	86.80	1.00	99.68	68.18	6.16	22.05	30859.15
Swisscom	533.80	4.60	619.40	443.40	3.73	16.70	30963.41
UBS	23.13	-0.54	23.79	13.88	1.52	11.18	80078.09
Zurich Fin	413.50	-	458.30	384.60	4.38	14.49	67765.64
Taiwan (NT$)							
Chunghwa Telecom	117.00	-	128.00	105.50	3.89	23.93	28397.76
Formosa PetChem	79.90	-0.90	90.00	75.20	0.79	14.46	23814.14
HonHaiPrc	106.00	-1.00	116.50	98.00	4.02	10.04	45977.16
MediaTek	712.00	-6.00	795.00	533.00	5.54	9.52	35633.73
TaiwanSem	550.00	-2.00	594.00	370.00	2.07	20.57	446251.27
Thailand (THB)							
PTT Explor	35.25	0.50	37.25	29.50	5.62	9.49	28349.92
United Arab Emirates (Dhs)							
Emirtestele	24.30	0.70	38.98	11.60	2.75	27.17	57535.64
United Kingdom (p)							
Anglo American	2086	-15.50	3648.5	16.78	8.55	4.13	34849.47
AscBrFd	1957.5	-36.50	2139	1223	0.32	32.36	18867.97
AstraZen	10606	-130.00	12828.45	9499.21	1.95	1795.80	205313.38
Aviva	369.90	-1.60	467.30	366.50	5.77	48.67	12651.43
Barclays	149.22	-0.42	198.86	128.12	2.01	3.62	28630.64
BP	515.90	4.40	570.57	4.75	3.05	18.72	110872.25
BrAmTob	2583.5	-3.00	3536.5	2471	8.35	8.74	72163.23
BT	114.10	-0.10	161.40	22.98	-	11.08	14168.79
Compass	1986.5	-26.50	2250	1760	0.70	48.33	42744.01
Diageo	3175.5	28.00	3937	38.56	2.28	24.43	89126.12
GlaxoSmh	1376.6	-4.80	1609	16.64	5.81	15.90	70408.69
Glencore	429.45	-2.75	583.25	410.95	2.06	15.72	66244.41
HSBC	585.30	-2.20	665.60	434.70	2.76	12.79	143618.6
Imperial Brands	1744.5	-16.00	2185	1692.5	7.92	5.83	19610.41
Jardine Mathes.	62.50	-	53.91	46.89	2.54	11.28	18046.71
LlydsBkg	41.50	-0.27	54.33	38.51	6.19	5.76	32963.21
LSE Group	8264	106.00	8893.86	7052	0.93	84.50	52092.77
Natl Grid	973.20	4.20	1229.21	844.29	5.05	22.69	44829.17
Natwest Group	227.90	-2.10	310.00	210.90	4.61	8.97	25356.21
Prudential	933.20	-21.60	1357.5	782.40	1.26	15.16	32090.6
ReckittB	5678	-18.00	6682	5502	3.08	-24.57	50891.16
RELX	2637	32.00	2735	2124	1.81	34.79	62296.18
RioTinto	4978.5	3.50	6354	4473	10.09	5.21	77795.18
RollsRoyce	214.70	-4.50	224.47	64.44	-	146.05	22570.21
Shell PLC	2489	20.00	2613.5	2149.45	2.43	13.12	207126.54
StandCh	702.40	-1.20	799.40	515.60	1.26	15.75	24253.58
Tesco	257.00	0.70	307.23	194.35	3.56	13.09	22870.98
Unilever	3981.5	-13.00	4868.64	3797.5	3.64	20.44	125076.29
Vodafone	73.36	-0.09	113.90	69.73	10.55	-164.12	24809.91
WPP	765.00	-1.80	1082	713.00	3.46	14.57	10269.92
United States of America ($)							
21stC Fox A	31.48	0.05	37.26	28.02	1.38	13.82	7985.97
3M	106.22	-0.63	133.91	92.38	5.14	11.38	58632.64
AbbottLb	101.38	0.50	115.83	93.25	1.64	27.90	175930.59
Abbvie	144.30	-1.80	168.11	130.96	3.32	24.26	254689.18
Accenture	326.42	0.26	328.88	242.80	1.04	35.94	216841.31
Activision Bli.	92.07	0.04	93.67	70.94	0.47	29.02	72440.52
Adobe	559.58	-5.30	569.98	274.73	-	59.70	255056.56
Advanced Micro	109.39	-1.40	132.83	54.57	-	46.16	176730.21
AEP	76.28	0.28	105.60	75.47	3.63	16.68	39297.63
Aflac	73.95	-0.25	78.43	56.03	1.65	12.55	43930.92
AirProd	292.24	-0.46	328.56	224.75	1.89	33.29	64920.27
Allstate	107.97	0.75	142.15	100.57	2.77	6.90	28242.12
Alphabet	134.44	-1.33	138.00	83.34	-	1.30	797632.52
Altria	43.61	-0.49	51.57	40.35	7.44	35.29	77381.87
Amazon	135.89	-1.38	143.63	81.43	-	2.27	1402079.18
AmerAir	14.38	0.08	19.08	11.65	-	-4.16	9395.42
AmerExpr	157.94	-2.07	182.15	130.65	1.09	16.63	116312.63
AmerIntGrp	58.90	0.30	64.88	45.66	2.00	5.90	41930.89
AmerTower	177.51	-2.91	265.56	172.55	2.71	34.01	82747.27
Amgen	249.00	-5.01	296.67	211.71	2.61	26.27	133190.39
Amphenol Corp	87.74	-0.23	90.28	65.21	0.82	37.91	52332.87
Analog Devices	179.51	-2.03	200.10	133.48	1.43	65.36	89452.34
Aon Cp	331.65	2.20	347.37	266.35	0.55	64.80	67280.77
Apple	184.14	-5.56	198.23	124.17	0.43	33.12	2878887.48
Applied Materi.	152.65	-0.96	155.26	71.12	0.57	22.84	128154.84
Aptiv	102.28	-0.88	124.88	77.96	-	57.17	28927.27
ArcherDan	77.38	-1.50	98.28	69.92	1.76	17.52	41483.55
AT&T	14.74	0.26	22.84	13.43	13.01	5.79	105376.26
Autodesk	219.80	0.34	233.69	179.61	-	105.40	46985.25
AutomData	251.00	-1.85	274.92	201.46	1.41	42.13	103408.7
AutoZone	2556.42	0.36	2750	2050.21	-	25.05	46414.28
Avago Tech	869.56	-2.61	923.67	415.07	1.60	53.25	358854.72
BakerHu	37.16	0.09	37.58	20.42	1.84	93.27	37518.74
Bank of NY	44.69	-0.52	52.26	36.22	2.68	11.70	34799.89
BankAm	28.24	-0.41	38.60	26.32	2.55	8.58	224405.54
Baxter	39.00	0.01	60.39	37.35	2.57	16.72	19751.31
BectonDick	266.02	-6.86	287.32	215.90	1.16	49.91	77174.68
BerkshHat	545754.31	-872.69	557026.99	393012.25	-	9.95	313983.37
Biogen	262.31	-3.99	319.76	194.42	-	27.35	37987.88
BlackRock	691.43	-4.51	785.65	503.12	2.20	19.62	103231.57
Boeing	218.26	-4.31	243.10	120.99	-	-33.10	131301.87
Booking Holdings	3128.3	-16.34	3251.71	1616.85	-	120.43	111655.77
Bristol-Myers	59.70	-0.94	81.44	59.64	3.10	20.75	124719.44
Broadcom	869.56	-2.61	923.67	415.07	1.60	53.25	358854.72
Cadence Design	246.27	0.76	248.16	138.76	-	106.82	66933.72
CapOne	99.95	-1.79	120.94	83.93	1.85	4.02	38125.07
CardinalHlth	86.93	0.02	95.45	64.99	2.08	48.84	21791.75
Carnival	15.18	-0.20	19.55	6.11	-	-1.96	16984.85
Caterpillar	281.01	-0.62	293.88	160.60	1.40	25.76	143343.2
Centene Corp	63.79	1.91	93.58	60.83	-	30.34	34540.96
CharlesSch	57.98	-1.70	86.63	45.00	1.15	22.22	102637.33
Charter Comms	420.41	11.42	452.25	297.66	-	18.63	62923.16
Chevron Corp	166.50	0.04	189.68	140.46	2.94	22.18	310896.33
Chipotle Mexic.	1953.6	2.11	2175.01	1344.05	-	92.51	53895.02
Chubb	201.00	0.94	231.37	173.78	1.46	11.31	82557.73
Cigna	276.49	-2.27	340.11	240.50	1.33	19.06	81834.07
Cintas Corp	497.58	0.84	518.71	370.93	0.67	47.30	50624.57
Cisco	57.24	-0.02	58.19	38.61	2.41	22.04	233256.33
Citigroup	41.12	-0.24	52.74	40.01	4.57	4.40	80050.44
CME Grp	204.58	2.05	209.31	166.55	1.62	30.43	73587.43
Coca-Cola	58.66	-0.17	64.99	54.02	2.64	28.27	253644.44
Cognizant	71.29	0.32	72.71	51.33	1.24	19.09	36004.4
ColgtPlm	72.44	-0.34	82.09	67.84	2.28	30.81	59885.53
Comcast	45.11	0.55	47.46	28.39	2.04	16.09	185658.71
ConocPhil	122.59	-0.24	138.49	91.53	1.47	21.90	146800.38
Constellation	259.04	1.54	273.65	208.12	1.09	-1264.85	47482.03
Corning	31.49	-0.72	37.10	28.98	2.81	26.67	26856.14
Corteva	50.34	-0.62	68.43	48.68	0.98	23.03	35729.52
Corteva	50.34	-0.62	68.43	48.68	0.98	23.03	35729.52
Costco	545.79	1.06	571.16	447.90	0.54	47.25	241839.5
CrownCstl	99.11	-0.88	177.78	97.94	5.08	40.25	42981.88
CSX	29.79	-0.13	34.38	25.80	1.21	17.84	59768.57
CVS	65.70	0.09	104.83	64.62	2.81	11.97	84385.01
Danaher	258.02	-2.83	294.60	221.22	0.32	31.92	190509.61
Deere	413.12	-1.31	450.00	328.62	0.88	24.60	118978.8
Delta	41.79	0.03	49.81	27.20	-	54.38	26885.3
Devon Energy	53.41	-0.09	78.82	44.03	3.40	13.82	34219.79
Digital Realty	130.15	-0.55	133.39	85.76	3.29	23.76	39397.58
DiscFinServ	90.87	-0.95	122.50	87.64	1.91	5.53	22711.52
Disney	80.96	-0.23	118.18	80.53	-	51.04	148138.89
Dollar General	127.65	0.43	261.59	125.83	1.23	13.48	28016.17
DominRes	46.12	-0.67	84.45	45.88	5.04	15.68	38591.97
DukeEner	86.78	0.13	111.26	83.76	4.14	19.09	66882
DuPont	75.52	0.13	78.74	49.52	1.47	25.35	34668.33
Eaton	230.67	1.10	233.98	129.85	1.22	46.84	92037.33
eBay	43.74	-0.55	50.75	35.92	1.52	124.82	23276.56
Ecolab	181.47	-0.62	191.41	131.04	0.99	50.33	51725.1
Edwards Lifesc.	76.91	0.94	98.35	67.13	-	35.04	46754.84
Elevance	452.29	2.14	549.52	412.00	0.98	18.76	106581.15
Eli Lilly	555.56	-2.63	561.93	296.32	0.56	98.44	527390.43
Emerson	98.10	0.22	99.65	72.41	1.91	23.23	56064.15
EOG Res	132.50	-0.89	150.88	98.52	1.12	17.98	77149.57
Equinix	764.78	-3.78	821.63	494.89	1.38	149.97	71556.58
EquityResTP	63.41	-0.39	77.92	54.60	3.50	20.07	24034.45
Exelon	39.81	0.30	46.19	35.19	3.54	24.81	39619.68
ExxonMb	113.84	0.31	119.92	83.89	2.83	22.90	455723.47
Fedex	256.50	-0.13	270.95	141.92	1.03	14.96	64511.16
Fidelity NIS	55.49	-0.15	93.90	48.57	2.59	89.81	32875.97
Fiserv	114.23	2.00	122.39	87.03	-	62.66	71750.87
FordMtr	11.93	-0.16	15.74	10.90	0.77	2.91	46901.29
Franklin	25.97	-0.16	32.88	20.24	4.01	7.45	12958.45
GenDyn	219.72	-3.61	256.86	202.35	1.96	20.63	59993.76
GenElectric	112.74	-0.14	117.96	48.29	0.26	-37.62	122703.76
GenMills	66.21	0.11	90.89	65.43	2.87	18.97	38479.99
GenMotors	32.79	-0.50	43.63	31.11	-	5.31	45109.06
GileadSci	73.49	-1.67	89.74	61.45	3.56	16.17	91569.59
GoldmSchs	320.45	-3.30	389.58	287.75	1.87	5.85	105643.1
Halliburton	40.71	0.01	41.68	23.30	0.59	24.81	36579.82
HCA Hold	275.05	0.80	304.86	178.32	0.64	14.10	74810.3
Hew-Pack	29.91	-0.24	33.90	24.08	2.59	5.85	29485.02
Hilton Worldwi.	148.55	-0.03	157.14	116.39	-	110.34	38847.84
HiltonWwde	148.55	-0.03	157.14	116.39	-	110.34	38847.84
HomeDep	326.69	-1.10	347.25	265.61	1.88	22.60	326706.56
Honywell	184.50	-1.21	220.96	166.63	1.88	25.29	122497.56
HumanaInc	469.50	-0.72	571.30	423.29	0.55	22.46	58174.22
IBM	147.94	-0.19	153.21	115.55	4.08	30.79	134774.26
IDEXX Laborato.	490.66	-5.35	564.74	317.06	-	61.87	40724.78
IllinoisTool	243.01	0.66	264.19	180.27	1.79	30.97	73483.87
Illumina	161.37	1.94	248.87	157.57	-	34.72	25544.08
Intcntl Exch	112.70	-1.95	118.79	88.60	1.08	17.02	63143.16
Intel	36.33	-0.38	37.41	24.59	3.53	8.11	152150.04
Intuit	548.85	-1.73	555.00	352.63	0.43	74.53	153820.42
John&John	158.60	-2.08	181.04	150.11	2.44	22.02	412196.58
JohnsonCn	57.73	-0.62	70.43	48.82	1.84	28.59	39274.88
JPMrgnCh	144.78	-0.42	159.38	101.28	2.42	10.22	420743.03
Kimb-Clark	126.71	-0.31	147.87	108.74	3.43	25.79	42852.05
KinderM	16.71	-0.36	19.36	16.00	6.13	39.15	37232.64
KLA Corp	510.32	-2.24	520.19	250.20	0.70	28.48	69770.3
Kraft Heinz	32.59	0.04	42.80	32.42	4.53	43.09	40023.98
Kroger	45.43	0.41	52.00	41.82	1.60	22.49	32607.18
LasVegasSd	52.38	-0.23	65.58	33.38	-	-37.62	40041.74
LibertyGbl	17.82	0.04	21.89	15.22	-	0.82	3052.45
Lilly (E)	555.56	-2.63	561.93	296.32	0.56	98.44	527390.43
Linde	382.12	0.52	393.67	262.47	1.02	56.61	186453.87
Lockheed	426.70	-18.49	508.10	381.55	2.40	19.87	107456.48
Lowes	229.07	-1.36	237.21	176.50	1.22	20.44	132199.78
Lyondell	99.02	0.30	101.39	71.46	4.13	6.40	32102.01
Marathon Ptl	146.84	-0.18	149.76	89.40	1.46	78.83	58713.1
Marsh&M	194.04	1.08	197.79	148.11	1.27	32.36	95844.31
MasterCard	409.77	-1.73	417.78	276.87	0.51	50.73	386023.87
McDonald's	275.93	-3.23	299.35	230.58	1.75	29.80	201087.7
McKesson	406.69	-0.44	441.00	331.75	0.40	49.95	54863.45
Medtronic	80.13	-0.07	92.39	75.77	2.87	23.71	106615.67
Merck	105.81	-1.71	119.65	84.52	2.30	23.61	268482.43
Meta	299.49	-0.66	326.20	88.09	-	23.59	665641.25
Metlife	63.05	-0.72	77.36	48.95	2.78	9.35	47415.02
Microsoft	331.85	-1.70	366.78	213.43	0.64	38.32	2465567.18
Mnstr Bvrg	56.01	0.05	60.47	42.81	-	23.63	58666.26
MondelezInt	69.47	-0.10	78.59	54.72	1.77	24.78	94501.43
Monsanto	10.07	0.02	11.13	9.56	-	51.84	251.75
MorganStly	83.69	-1.15	100.99	74.67	2.31	11.30	138671.53
Netflix	444.28	-4.40	485.00	211.73	-	42.86	196882.68
NextEraE	65.74	-0.47	91.06	65.55	2.28	93.64	133028.84
Nike	99.46	-0.86	130.22	82.22	1.09	28.19	121845.9
NorfolkS	198.78	-2.31	261.71	196.33	1.93	17.80	45126.1
Northrop	425.15	-5.93	556.27	421.73	1.34	10.59	64325.07
NXP	206.74	-0.83	225.57	132.08	1.00	33.02	53298.01
Occid Pet	65.42	-0.76	76.11	55.51	0.06	34.44	57876.69
Oracle	123.64	-0.34	127.54	60.78	0.96	50.69	335590.98
Pepsico	174.29	0.13	196.88	160.98	2.25	34.43	239924.23
Perrigo	35.01	-0.22	41.44	30.78	2.53	-38.74	4740.24
Pfizer	34.61	-0.78	54.93	34.57	4.16	9.55	195378.43
Phillips66	116.32	-0.42	118.77	74.02	2.87	42.47	51795.89
PhilMorris	93.53	-0.98	105.62	82.85	4.83	17.40	145190.85
PNCFin	117.95	-2.54	170.28	110.31	3.75	10.07	46974.13
PPG Inds	136.82	0.35	152.89	107.40	1.60	32.56	32222.89
ProctGmbl	152.00	-0.44	158.38	122.18	2.17	28.01	358310.54
Prudntl	94.05	-0.40	110.96	75.37	4.51	5.23	34140.15
PublStor	268.96	-2.23	343.47	268.75	2.74	29.55	47291.09
Qualcomm	114.14	-2.41	139.94	101.47	2.17	14.18	127380.24
Raytheon	84.11	-0.94	108.84	80.27	2.20	35.35	122423.36
Regen Pharm	810.87	-12.04	847.50	572.22	-	12.22	86552.73
S&P Global	393.83	0.28	428.65	279.32	0.72	34.14	125316.71
Salesforce	220.45	1.76	238.22	126.34	-	160.00	214497.85
Schlmbrg	60.81	0.60	62.78	33.80	0.76	49.96	86422.32
Sempra Energy	69.45	0.25	88.24	68.27	5.84	18.78	21852.69
Shrwin-Will	268.46	-1.13	283.80	195.24	0.76	41.71	69034.12
SimonProp	114.56	-0.39	129.95	86.02	5.76	18.16	37481.37
SouthCpr	78.65	-0.65	87.59	42.42	3.75	19.43	60804.95
Starbucks	95.74	-1.10	115.48	81.67	1.77	28.06	109660.6
StateSt	69.27	-0.81	94.74	58.62	2.90	10.45	22072.21
Stryker	288.46	2.17	306.93	200.80	0.83	60.04	109550.84
Sychrony Fin	31.41	-0.39	40.89	26.59	2.66	4.49	13135.13
T-MobileUS	137.25	0.36	154.38	124.92	-	61.76	161468.75
Target	123.77	-1.42	180.46	120.75	2.38	9.43	57132.91
TE Connect	129.95	-1.07	146.60	104.76	1.41	19.15	40794.75
Tesla Mtrs	248.66	-7.83	313.80	101.81	-	55.03	789245.46
TexasInstr	167.69	-2.05	188.12	145.97	2.32	22.02	152256.87
TheTrvelers	161.00	0.61	194.45	149.65	2.07	10.76	36859.71
ThrmoFshr	538.50	-3.51	609.85	475.77	0.18	30.01	207833.95
TJX Cos	90.81	-0.81	92.87	59.78	1.07	36.13	103893.96
Truist Financial Corp	29.70	-0.75	53.34	25.56	5.78	7.20	39553.03
Twitter	53.70	0.35	60.16	31.30	-	-224.30	41093.72
UnionPac	212.70	-3.02	240.48	183.69	2.01	21.31	129628.29
UPS	162.51	-1.46	200.96	154.87	2.32	12.00	117539.55
USBancorp	35.93	-0.59	49.93	27.27	4.52	7.64	55079.45
UtdHlthcre	480.32	-0.49	558.10	445.68	1.08	28.81	444922.88
ValeroEngy	132.78	-0.34	160.16	97.73	2.72	63.43	46888.98
Verizon	34.39	0.09	44.73	31.25	6.80	7.01	144555.91
VertexPharm	342.37	-5.89	367.00	276.57	-	41.21	88363.92
VF Cp	19.43	-0.05	44.82	16.77	9.35	6.91	7555.71
Visa Inc	244.74	-0.60	250.58	174.60	0.50	43.94	393245.2
Walgreen	22.50	-0.24	42.29	22.41	7.86	3.53	19419.07
WalMartSto	161.88	1.61	162.99	128.07	1.27	35.71	435710.36
Walt Disney	80.96	-0.23	118.18	80.53	-	51.04	148138.89
Waste Manage.	155.94	-1.09	174.74	148.31	1.36	39.42	63166.59
WellsFargo	40.75	-0.79	48.84	35.25	1.75	8.93	74285.66
Williams Cos	33.95	-0.50	35.46	27.80	4.46	29.69	41291.43
Workday	248.06	0.85	249.26	128.72	-	2220.56	51348.46
Yum!Brnds	127.44	-1.24	143.25	103.97	1.45	26.53	35710.13
Zoetis	187.10	-3.33	194.99	124.15	0.49	47.52	86125.29
Zoom	73.53	0.25	89.67	60.45	-	17.55	18698.12
Venezuela (VEF)							
Bco de Vznla	3.90	0.10	4.59	1.04	173.13	-	432.37
Bco Provncl	9.42	0.07	79400	6.80	-	0.00	107.38

Closing prices and highs & lows are in traded currency (with variations for that country indicated by stock), market capitalisation is in USD. Highs & lows are based on intraday trading over a rolling 52 week period.
♦ ex-dividend
■ ex-capital redistribution
price at time of suspension

FT 500: TOP 20

	Close price	Prev price	Day change	Day change %	Week change	Week change %	Month change %
SHOP	89.36	89.75	-0.39	-0.43	9.98	12.0	15.47
MitsbCp	7602.00	7622.00	-20.00	-0.26	668.00	9.3	5.80
Toyota	2651.00	2589.00	62.00	2.39	157.50	9.0	8.80
ChinaPcIns	19.40	19.16	0.24	1.25	1.26	8.4	-6.67
HondaMtr	4960.00	4867.00	93.00	1.91	251.00	7.5	12.74
Hitachi	10140.00	10045.00	95.00	0.95	594.00	7.3	10.56
Fuji Hvy Ind	2942.50	2893.50	49.00	1.69	150.50	7.3	10.49
Zoom	73.53	73.28	0.25	0.34	4.61	7.1	6.53
Nomura	600.40	587.40	13.00	2.21	26.60	7.1	10.05
CNOOC	14.00	13.70	0.30	2.19	0.62	7.0	14.01
Denso	10335.00	10200.00	135.00	1.32	531.00	6.9	5.94
Vale	69.31	69.10	0.21	0.30	4.13	6.7	2.62
MitUFJFin	1230.00	1217.50	12.50	1.03	62.00	6.4	7.56
SumitomoF	7002.00	6924.00	78.00	1.13	344.00	6.4	6.47
Sony	12690.00	12480.00	210.00	1.68	530.00	6.2	-1.86
Murata Mfg	8540.00	8458.00	82.00	0.97	412.00	6.1	5.37
Nppn Stl	3627.00	3631.00	-4.00	-0.11	208.00	6.0	10.95
Mizuho Fin	2513.50	2485.00	28.50	1.15	108.50	5.8	5.12
Ch OSLnd&Inv	17.58	17.22	0.36	2.09	0.58	5.6	-2.98
BP	515.90	511.50	4.40	0.86	22.30	5.5	5.75

Based on the FT Global 500 companies in local currency

FT 500: BOTTOM 20

	Close price	Prev price	Day change	Day change %	Week change	Week change %	Month change %
Dollar General	127.65	127.22	0.43	0.34	-30.44	-19.0	-23.89
Walgreen	22.50	22.73	-0.24	-1.03	-2.87	-12.1	-24.67
LVMH	726.00	759.10	-33.10	-4.36	-44.90	-9.7	-11.09
PernodRic	176.95	179.10	-2.15	-1.20	-15.20	-8.9	-9.60
Fresenius Med	41.00	42.60	-1.60	-3.76	-2.13	-8.3	-8.32
Midea	0.33	0.36	-0.03	-7.04	-0.01	-8.3	-16.46
ChristianDior	704.00	728.00	-24.00	-3.30	-38.50	-8.2	-8.81
Unicred	20.94	22.04	-1.10	-4.99	-0.67	-7.8	-6.25
Richemont	117.00	123.45	-6.45	-5.22	-3.00	-7.5	-13.49
CaixaBnk	3.59	3.64	-0.05	-1.43	-0.23	-7.2	-4.04
Baxter	39.00	38.99	0.01	0.03	-2.98	-7.1	-11.19
ChMinsheng	2.58	2.56	0.02	0.78	-0.21	-6.9	-11.03
DominRes	46.12	46.79	-0.67	-1.43	-2.71	-6.8	-6.31
Deut Bank	9.58	9.76	-0.18	-1.88	-0.51	-6.7	-6.80
Prudential	933.20	954.80	-21.60	-2.26	-45.00	-6.7	-9.49
Volkswgn	123.80	125.75	-1.95	-1.55	-6.20	-6.2	-6.18
BcoSantdr	3.41	3.50	-0.10	-2.74	-0.13	-6.1	-5.58
21stC Fox A	31.48	31.43	0.05	0.16	-1.97	-5.7	-4.78
Lockheed	426.70	445.19	-18.49	-4.15	-7.22	-5.7	-4.30
Hermes Intl	1823.80	1868.20	-44.40	-2.38	-63.20	-5.6	-5.33

Based on the FT Global 500 companies in local currency

BONDS: HIGH YIELD & EMERGING MARKET

Sep 06	Red date	Coupon	Ratings S*	Ratings M*	Ratings F*	Bid price	Bid yield	Day's chge yield	Mth's chge yield	Spread vs US
High Yield US$										
HCA Inc.	04/24	8.36	BB-	Ba2	BB	113.75	4.24	0.00	0.12	-
High Yield Euro										
Aldesa Financial Services S.A.	04/21	7.25	-	-	B	71.10	28.23	0.00	0.64	25.98
Emerging US$										
Peru	03/19	7.13	BBB+	A3	BBB+	104.40	2.60	-	-	0.34
Colombia	01/26	4.50	-	Baa2	BBB-	109.50	2.33	0.16	0.52	1.28
Brazil	04/26	6.00	-	Ba2	BB-	115.15	2.78	-0.01	0.65	1.73
Poland	04/26	3.25	-	A2	A-	111.22	0.98	0.03	0.16	-0.07
Mexico	05/26	11.50	-	Baa1	BBB-	149.00	1.61	0.00	-0.12	0.56
Turkey	03/27	6.00	-	B2	BB-	102.88	5.43	0.14	0.83	4.38
Turkey	03/27	6.00	-	Ba2	BB+	101.26	5.82	0.00	0.17	3.07
Peru	08/27	4.13	BBB+	A3	BBB+	103.50	3.66	0.01	-0.02	0.80
Russia	06/28	12.75	-	Baa3	BBB	168.12	2.48	0.07	0.05	-
Brazil	02/47	5.63	-	Ba2	BB-	101.48	5.52	0.08	0.80	-
Emerging Euro										
Brazil	04/21	2.88	BB-	Ba2	BB-	103.09	0.05	0.01	-0.09	-1.19
Mexico	04/23	2.75	-	Baa1	BBB-	106.48	-0.26	-	-	-0.36
Mexico	04/23	2.75	BBB+	A3	BBB+	107.76	0.76	0.00	-0.07	-1.56
Bulgaria	03/28	3.00	BBB-	Baa2	BBB	117.04	1.00	0.02	-0.15	-1.42

Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data LLC, an ICE Data Services company. US $ denominated bonds NY close; all other London close. *S - Standard & Poor's, M - Moody's, F - Fitch.

BONDS: GLOBAL INVESTMENT GRADE

Sep 06	Red date	Coupon	Ratings S*	Ratings M*	Ratings F*	Bid price	Bid yield	Day's chge yield	Mth's chge yield	Spread vs US
US$										
FleetBoston Financial Corp.	01/28	6.88	BBB+	Baa1	A-	129.00	2.54	-0.01	-0.05	-
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	02/28	5.00	BBB+	A3	A	117.21	2.47	0.00	0.32	-
NationsBank Corp.	03/28	6.80	BBB+	Baa1	A-	127.69	2.72	-0.01	0.06	-
GTE LLC	04/28	6.94	BBB+	Baa2	A-	128.27	2.80	0.00	-0.11	-
United Utilities PLC	08/28	6.88	BBB	Baa1	A-	130.43	2.62	-0.07	-0.22	-
Barclays Bank plc	01/29	4.50	A	A1	A+	96.46	5.02	0.00	0.02	-
Euro										
Electricite de France (EDF)	04/30	4.63	A-	A3	A-	137.45	0.82	-0.01	0.10	-
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	02/31	3.00	BBB+	A3	A	124.42	0.68	0.00	-0.11	-
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	02/31	3.00	BBB+	A3	A	121.70	0.93	0.00	0.02	-
Finland	04/31	0.75	AA+	Aa1	AA+	111.08	-0.27	0.00	-0.05	-0.87
Yen										
Mexico	06/26	1.09	-	Baa1	BBB-	98.73	1.34	-0.02	-0.14	0.27
£ Sterling										
innogy Fin B.V.	06/30	6.25	BBB	Baa2	A-	137.45	2.19	-0.03	0.02	-
innogy Fin B.V.	06/30	6.25	BBB	Baa2	A-	128.68	3.20	0.00	-0.01	0.40

Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data LLC, an ICE Data Services company. US $ denominated bonds NY close; all other London close. *S - Standard & Poor's, M - Moody's, F - Fitch.

INTEREST RATES: OFFICIAL

Sep 06	Rate	Current	Since	Last
US	Fed Funds	5.25-5.50	26-07-2023	5.00-5.25
US	Prime	8.50	26-01-2023	8.25
US	Discount	5.25	04-05-2023	5.00
Euro	Repo	3.438	01-08-2023	3.424
UK	Repo	5.25	03-08-2023	5.00
Japan	O'night Call	0.00-0.10	01-02-2016	0.00
Switzerland	Libor Target	-1.25-0.25	15-01-2015	-0.75--0.25

INTEREST RATES: MARKET

Sep 06 (Libor: Sep 05)	Over night	Change Day	Change Week	Change Month	One month	Three month	Six month	One year
US$ Libor	5.06157	0.010	0.000	-0.001	5.44210	5.65269	5.86038	6.04143
Euro Libor	-0.64957	-0.064	0.000	0.001	-0.61943	-0.58057	-0.55600	-0.48571
£ Libor	0.18063	-0.005	0.000	0.001	4.20130	5.57370	4.74470	0.81363
Swiss Fr Libor				-0.002	-0.77540	-0.75300	-0.70280	-0.55320
Yen Libor				0.000	-0.06005	-0.02617	0.07165	0.04867
Euro Euribor				-0.011	3.62500	3.80200	3.93800	4.04900
Sterling CDs				0.000	0.50000	0.63000	0.78500	
US$ CDs				0.000	5.40000	5.56000	5.69000	
Euro CDs				0.010	3.69000	3.77000	3.83000	

Sep 06	Short term		7 Days notice		One month		Three month		Six month		One year	
Euro	3.38	3.68	3.44	3.74	3.54	3.84	3.62	3.92	3.68	3.98	3.74	4.04
Sterling					0.45	0.55	0.58	0.68	0.71	0.86	0.90	1.05
US Dollar	5.13	5.33	5.16	5.36	5.30	5.50	5.46	5.66	5.59	5.79	5.70	5.90
Japanese Yen	-0.30	-0.10	-0.30	-0.10	-0.25	0.05	-0.15	0.05	-0.05	0.15	0.00	0.20

Libor rates come from ICE (see www.theice.com) and are fixed at 11am UK time. Other data sources: US $, Euro & CDs: Tullett Prebon; SDR, US Discount: IMF; EONIA: ECB; Swiss Libor: SNB; EURONIA, RONIA & SONIA: WMBA.

BOND INDICES

	Index	Day's change	Month's change	Year change	Return 1 month	Return 1 year
Markit IBoxx						
ABF Pan-Asia unhedged	204.16	-0.50	-0.54	0.22	-1.40	3.46
Corporates(£)	324.73	-0.26	-0.73	0.50	-0.48	-0.52
Corporates(€)	213.29	-0.10	-0.44	2.89	-0.09	0.68
Eurozone Sov(€)	210.84	-0.23	-1.01	1.60	-0.19	-4.12
Gilts(£)	256.39	-0.32	-1.34	-4.89	-0.95	-10.34
Overall(£)	268.83	-0.29	-1.15	-3.47	-0.77	-7.94
Overall(€)	207.93	-0.18	-0.80	1.83	-0.10	-2.87
FTSE						
Sterling Corporate (£)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Euro Corporate (€)	104.47	-0.05	-	-	0.54	-1.73
Euro Emerging Mkts (€)	738.17	1.02	-	-	6.45	0.14
Eurozone Govt Bond	110.04	-0.19	-	-	-0.34	-0.64

CREDIT INDICES	Index	Day's change	Week's change	Month's change	Series high	Series low
Markit iTraxx						
Crossover 5Y	401.55	8.08	10.22	1.62	510.17	376.12
Europe 5Y	71.82	1.93	2.41	0.62	101.15	66.40
Japan 5Y	62.32	0.47	0.30	-2.36	99.54	61.28
Senior Financials 5Y	82.89	2.73	3.19	2.49	124.01	76.46
Markit CDX						
Emerging Markets 5Y	202.42	3.85	7.50	0.89	265.81	189.34
Nth Amer High Yld 5Y	430.62	8.14	7.17	-3.96	511.98	408.40
Nth Amer Inv Grade 5Y	64.28	0.91	1.56	-3.42	88.71	62.55

Websites: markit.com, ftse.com. All indices shown are unhedged. Currencies are shown in brackets after the index names.

VOLATILITY INDICES

	Sep 06	Day Chng	Prev	52 wk high	52 wk low
VIX	14.52	0.51	14.01	34.85	12.73
VXD	13.09	1.00	12.09	34.44	3.10
VXN	19.76	0.36	19.40	40.18	5.85
VDAX	15.46	0.43	15.03	93.30	-

† CBOE. VIX: S&P 500 index Options Volatility, VXD: DJIA Index Options Volatility, VXN: NASDAQ Index Options Volatility.
‡ Deutsche Borse. VDAX: DAX Index Options Volatility.

BONDS: BENCHMARK GOVERNMENT

	Red Date	Coupon	Bid Price	Bid Yield	Day chg yield	Wk chg yield	Month chg yld	Year chg yld
Australia		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	05/32	1.25	79.24	4.11	0.04	0.03	-0.06	0.46
	02/50	1.00	94.95	1.93	0.04	0.01	-0.07	0.24
Austria	02/29	0.50	87.45	3.03	0.01	0.03	0.00	1.13
	02/47	1.50	69.59	3.40	0.04	0.12	0.10	0.97
Belgium	06/27	0.80	92.34	2.97	0.03	0.02	0.00	1.36
	06/47	1.60	68.26	3.61	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.89
Canada	03/25	1.25	94.97	4.80	0.10	-0.03	0.09	1.27
	06/30	1.25	85.18	3.76	0.12	0.05	0.12	0.64
	12/48	2.75	86.42	3.57	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.51
Denmark	11/29	0.50	87.30	2.76	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.96
	11/39	4.50	119.70	2.95	0.04	0.09	0.04	0.91
Finland	09/24	0.00	96.52	3.53	0.00	-0.03	0.05	2.36
	09/29	0.50	86.38	3.01	0.01	0.02	0.03	1.14
France	05/28	0.75	90.48	2.94	0.02	0.04	0.02	1.23
	05/48	2.00	74.86	3.54	0.04	0.10	0.08	0.94
Germany	08/29	0.00	86.26	2.52	0.02	0.04	0.01	1.15
	08/48	1.25	73.81	2.71	0.05	0.12	0.09	1.02
Greece		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	01/28	3.75	100.88	3.53	0.00	0.06	0.00	-0.06
Ireland		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	05/26	1.00	94.95	2.98	0.03	0.00	0.04	1.49
	02/45	2.00	77.70	3.49	0.03	0.09	0.12	0.88
Italy	02/25	0.35	95.50	3.68	-0.01	0.03	0.04	1.31
	05/30	0.40	91.37	1.77	0.03	0.12	0.15	0.33
	03/48	3.45	82.90	4.62	0.05	0.18	0.16	0.59
Japan	04/25	0.05	99.97	0.07	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.06
	12/29	0.10	98.51	0.34	0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.18
	12/49	0.40	75.40	1.54	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.36
Netherlands	07/27	0.75	92.40	2.86	0.03	0.03	0.02	1.36
	01/47	2.75	95.59	3.02	0.05	0.12	0.10	0.98
New Zealand	05/31	1.50	78.00	4.98	0.06	-0.02	0.16	1.00
	09/40	2.50	116.41	2.92	0.04	0.02	0.07	0.48
Norway	08/30	1.38	84.50	3.97	0.04	0.06	-0.11	0.64
Poland		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	07/27	2.50	90.34	5.32	-0.02	-0.05	0.00	-1.34
	04/47	4.00	79.59	5.57	0.00	-0.05	0.04	-0.42
Portugal	04/27	4.13	103.66	3.03	0.02	0.06	0.02	1.20
Spain		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10/29	0.60	85.05	3.33	0.03	0.07	0.03	1.04
	10/46	2.90	82.40	4.09	0.04	0.12	0.11	0.92
Sweden	06/30	0.13	112.26	1.20	0.00	0.02	0.33	2.12
	03/39	3.50	107.11	2.92	0.02	0.04	0.17	1.04
Switzerland	04/28	4.00	113.55	0.96	0.01	0.00	-0.02	0.27
	06/29	0.00	94.50	0.98	0.01	0.02	-0.02	0.26
United Kingdom		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	07/27	1.25	88.15	4.63	0.05	0.01	0.10	1.72
	07/47	1.50	53.54	4.79	0.02	0.11	0.18	1.52
United States		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	03/25	0.50	93.06	5.17	0.08	0.06	0.17	1.74
	02/30	1.50	84.07	4.36	0.09	0.13	0.23	1.13
	02/50	0.25	62.03	2.14	0.07	0.15	0.21	1.00

Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data LLC, an ICE Data Services company.

GILTS: UK CASH MARKET

Sep 06	Price £	Red Yield	Change in Yield Day	Week	Month	Year	52 Week High	Low	Amnt £m
	-	-	-	-	-				
Tr 2.25pc '23	100.00	0.00	-100.00	-100.00	-100.00	-100.00	100.00	97.34	35.92
Tr 0.125pc '24	98.08	5.07	-0.20	0.80	2.63	57.45	98.08	94.34	35.55
Tr 2pc '25	94.33	5.01	-0.60	0.00	2.45	68.69	97.82	92.80	39.93
Tr 0.125pc '26	89.68	4.74	0.21	1.07	1.94	59.06	92.38	86.33	35.32
Tr 1.25pc '27	88.12	4.64	0.65	1.75	2.65	56.76	93.30	85.65	40.99
Tr 0.5pc '29	80.53	4.62	0.65	1.99	3.13	57.14	87.71	78.21	28.92
Tr 1pc '32	75.74	4.50	0.67	2.51	3.21	48.03	110.35	74.53	35.96
Tr 4.25pc '36	96.43	4.63	0.65	2.66	3.12	38.21	110.66	94.67	31.68
Tr 4.5pc '42	96.25	4.80	0.42	2.56	3.90	39.94	117.12	93.79	28.35
Tr 3.75pc '52	83.97	4.78	0.21	3.02	4.60	43.11	110.80	82.24	25.11
Tr 4pc '60	88.48	4.66	0.22	2.87	4.72	44.72	122.75	86.40	25.13

Gilts benchmarks & non-rump undated stocks. Closing mid-price in pounds per £100 nominal of stock.

GILTS: UK FTSE ACTUARIES INDICES

Price Indices Fixed Coupon	Sep 06	Day's chg %	Total Return	Return 1 month	Return 1 year	Yield
1 Up to 5 Years	80.23	0.00	2341.81	0.27	-0.22	4.83
2 5 - 10 Years	140.19	-0.17	3023.89	-0.23	-6.20	4.50
3 10 - 15 Years	144.45	-0.27	3422.81	-0.52	-9.10	4.65
4 5 - 15 Years	140.06	-0.20	3116.53	-0.31	-7.10	4.55
5 Over 15 Years	187.26	-0.20	3309.58	-1.82	-18.13	4.72
7 All stocks	126.48	-0.13	2880.67	-0.58	-8.65	4.68

Index Linked	Sep 06	Day's chg %	Month chg %	Year's chg %	Total Return	Return 1 month	Return 1 year
1 Up to 5 Years	326.67	-0.08	0.41	1.58	2785.68	0.41	2.74
2 Over 5 years	495.43	-0.36	-2.71	-20.03	3791.38	-2.71	-19.55
3 5-15 years	442.56	-0.28	-0.64	-7.94	3603.86	-0.64	-7.11
4 Over 15 years	531.30	-0.41	-4.03	-27.24	3939.50	-4.03	-26.96
5 All stocks	478.29	-0.30	-2.03	-16.73	3736.83	-2.03	-16.16

Yield Indices	Sep 06	Sep 05	Yr ago		Sep 06	Sep 05	Yr ago
5 Yrs	4.54	4.52	2.87	20 Yrs	4.79	4.77	3.44
10 Yrs	4.57	4.54	3.14	45 Yrs	4.55	4.55	3.14
15 Yrs	4.72	4.70	3.38				

Real yield	inflation 0% Sep 06	Dur yrs	Previous	Yr ago	inflation 5% Sep 06	Dur yrs	Previous	Yr ago
Up to 5 yrs	1.20	2.58	1.17	-1.15	0.89	2.60	0.85	-1.71
Over 5 yrs	1.16	18.91	1.14	-0.42	1.13	18.96	1.11	-0.44
5-15 yrs	0.88	9.49	0.85	-0.92	0.79	9.50	0.76	-1.01
Over 15 yrs	1.23	24.95	1.22	-0.32	1.22	24.96	1.20	-0.34
All stocks	1.16	15.34	1.14	-0.42	1.12	15.41	1.10	-0.46

See FTSE website for more details www.ftse.com/products/indices/gilts
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COMMODITIES

www.ft.com/commodities

Energy		Price*	Change
Crude Oil†	Oct	86.34	-0.35
Brent Crude Oil‡		90.28	0.24
RBOB Gasoline†	Oct	2.57	-0.01
Natural Gas†	Oct	2.57	-0.02
Base Metals (♠ LME 3 Months)			
Aluminium		2209.50	17.50
Aluminium Alloy		1525.00	25.00
Copper		8416.00	-57.00
Lead		2233.50	8.50
Nickel		20765.00	-300.00
Tin		26475.00	125.00
Zinc		2464.00	-0.50
Precious Metals (PM London Fix)			
Gold		1926.10	-11.10
Silver (US cents)		2354.50	-49.00
Platinum		945.00	-15.00
Palladium		1205.00	-26.00
Bulk Commodities			
Iron Ore		117.13	-1.06
Baltic Dry Index		1129.00	-8.00
Richards Bay ICE Futures		116.00	2.10

Agricultural & Cattle Futures		Price*	Change
Corn♦	Sep	474.25	3.25
Wheat♦	Sep	577.50	5.00
Soybeans♦	Sep	1354.25	-2.00
Soybeans Meal♦	Sep	409.20	2.90
Cocoa (ICE Liffe)✠	Dec	2966.00	28.00
Cocoa (ICE US)♥	Sep	3595.00	21.00
Coffee(Robusta)✠	Sep	2630.00	-25.00
Coffee (Arabica)♥	Sep	152.50	1.55
White Sugar✠		724.50	-22.40
Sugar 11♥		26.65	0.00
Cotton♥	Oct	88.39	-1.22
Orange Juice♥	Nov	318.00	4.85
Live Cattle♣	Oct	179.88	-0.28
Feeder Cattle♣	May	134.88	-
Lean Hogs♣	Oct	83.20	0.15

	Sep 05	% Chg Month	% Chg Year
S&P GSCI Spt	603.55	2.04	-6.78
DJ UBS Spot	106.26	0.32	-9.53
TR/CC CRB TR	320.00	2.44	5.00
LEBA EUA Carbon	58.91	-1.98	129.94
LEBA UK Power	1048.00	-37.43	-39.60

Sources: † NYMEX, ‡ ECX/ICE, ♦ CBOT, ✠ ICE Liffe, ♥ ICE Futures, ♣ CME, ♠ LME/London Metal Exchange.* Latest prices, $ unless otherwise stated.

BONDS: INDEX-LINKED

	Price Sep 05	Yield Sep 05	Yield Prev	Month return	Value stock	Market	No of stocks
Can 4.25%' 26	106.62	2.115	2.027	0.01	5.25	66924.81	8
Fr 0.10%' 25	98.92	0.833	0.866	-0.07	12.79	245914.43	18
Swe 1.00%' 25	128.04	1.463	1.493	0.03	35.93	227538.01	7
UK 0.125%' 26	96.88	1.379	1.355	-0.08	13.45	497901.70	31
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK 2.00%' 35	238.50	0.848	0.821	-1.12	9.08	497901.70	31
US 0.625%' 26	95.30	2.699	2.688	-0.02	42.42	1617763.20	48
US 3.625%' 28	106.19	2.204	2.190	-0.23	16.78	1617763.20	48

Representative stocks from each major market Source: Merill Lynch Global Bond Indices † Local currencies. ‡ Total market value. In line with market convention, for UK Gilts inflation factor is applied to price, for other markets it is applied to par amount.

BONDS: TEN YEAR GOVT SPREADS

	Bid Yield	Spread vs Bund	Spread vs T-Bonds		Bid Yield	Spread vs Bund	Spread vs T-Bonds
Australia	4.11	1.59	-0.25	Netherlands	2.86	0.34	-1.50
Austria	3.03	0.51	-1.33	New Zealand	4.98	2.46	0.62
Canada	3.76	1.24	-0.60	Norway	3.97	1.45	-0.39
Denmark	2.76	0.24	-1.60	Portugal	3.03	0.51	-1.33
Finland	3.01	0.48	-1.36	Spain	3.33	0.81	-1.03
Germany	2.52	0.00	-1.84	Sweden	1.20	-1.33	-3.17
Italy	1.77	-0.75	-2.59	Switzerland	0.98	-1.54	-3.38
Japan	0.34	-2.18	-4.02	United States	4.36	1.84	0.00

Interactive Data Pricing and Reference Data LLC, an ICE Data Services company.

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ARTS

Macbeth caught up in a cauldron of ideas

THEATRE

Sarah Hemming

Ambition, as Macbeth learns to his cost, can be a fickle friend. So too it proves — unfortunately — for this new Royal Shakespeare Company production of **Macbeth**, which is packed with illuminating ideas and insights, but so busy that it loses the terrifying velocity that is a hallmark of this play.

At its best, Shakespeare's tragedy can roll forward like an unstoppable nightmare, event piling on event, the Macbeths strapped to a disaster of their own devising. Here it comes in at a lengthy and fitful three hours.

It's grippingly atmospheric, however. Set in a post-apocalyptic Scotland in the near future, Wils Wilson's production suggests a country ravaged by war, where damage and uncertainty stalk the land. Both Wilson and her designer Georgia McGuinness use the scope of the RSC stage well. Huge boulders dot the space, dead birds fall unnervingly from the heights, "fog and filthy air" hang over the space — hell is murky indeed. The costumes mix styles to look both contemporary and medieval.

In one chilling moment, the witches — feral creatures clad in hair garments — arrive by pushing up through some ghastly membrane, as if being birthed by an earth that has awaited this chance to release them again.

Another inspired decision is to have Macbeth's celebratory banquet illuminated via an emergency generator which suddenly packs up, adding to the nervous tension. Lurking behind a shredded black curtain, the musicians provide Alasdair Macrae's mournful brass-and-bagpipes-inflected score.

But there are choices that are confusing or that slow down or unbalance the action. At the outset the witches writhe in a dance that feels too strenuously weird; giving his "tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow" speech, Macbeth stops, seizes a microphone, and begins again. In the dagger scene, the invisible weapon seems to dart around the space to a whooshing sound effect — the impact is to detract from this psychologically revealing scene.

Top: Valene Kane as Lady Macbeth. Above: Reuben Joseph as Macbeth
Marc Brenner

The porter's monologue, rewritten by comedian Stewart Lee to bring the political gags up to date, is caustically delivered by Alison Peebles. She is withering as she ridicules the audience for laughing. But what doesn't emerge clearly here is the way the speech rephrases some of the play's themes — about hell, self-deception, equivocation and false promises.

Amid all the hurly-burly, Reuben Joseph makes a strong Macbeth, convincing as a warrior capable of butchery. He lurks like an unexploded grenade and paces the stage, coiled and ready for action. There's an edgy energy to him — you can see how easily paranoia might set in and how his moral compass has warped through war.

There's a nasty misogynist streak too — he grabs several female characters, including his wife, by the hair — and given that Duncan and Banquo are recast as women, it's notable that his murderous path to power destroys three women with children.

This is a motive the production could explore further — is he driven partly by rage at the prospect of women in positions of power? Does their gender play a role?

Valene Kane's Lady Macbeth likewise seems to be on the edge from the outset: her strange, skittish response to Macbeth's letter suggests she has already lost her moral bearings, and she becomes a sad, isolated figure as her husband wades on along his bloody pathway. What she doesn't quite catch is the full wretched despair of Lady M's descent into madness as her conscience assails her.

As with the current staging at Shakespeare's Globe, the loss of the couple's child weighs heavily here; so too does the plight of children caught up in war. We notice the youth of Malcolm who, in Shyvonne Ahmmad's performance, is petrified at being named as successor to the throne. All these ideas swirl around interestingly, and there are some fine performances — notably Anna Russell-Martin as Banquo and George Anton as Macduff. But it's also a production overburdened by its own invention.
To October 14, rsc.org.uk

Macbeth
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon
★★★☆☆

As You Like It
Shakespeare's Globe, London
★★★☆☆

Attend the RSC's *Macbeth* and you might be lampooned by the porter; at the Globe's **As You Like It**, you might end up embroiled in the action. Ellen McDougall's sunny, sprightly staging makes great use of the venue's penchant for audience interaction. The fateful wrestling match at which Rosalind falls for Orlando takes place amid the standing crowd; when she and her beloved cousin Celia are forced to flee the court in disguise, Celia's "poor and mean attire" is inspired by a spectator; Orlando implores audience members to help him with his terrible love poems — "Does anyone have a rhyme for 'blue'?"

And inclusivity is the watchword here. McDougall gently queers a comedy that already plays with gender. In the text, Rosalind, disguised as a youth, gives lessons in love to the infatuated Orlando — a ruse that in Shakespeare's time would have presented a boy-playing-a-girl-playing-a-boy. Here, mixing it up further, Nina Bowers plays Rosalind, Orlando is Isabel Adomakoh Young and Celia is Macy-Jacob Seelochan (who uses she, he and they pronouns).

The court is a starchy place, overseen by the repressive duke and attended by courtiers in black-and-white Elizabethan clothes. But the Forest of Arden has a festival air, and the costumes mash up the Elizabethan theme with influences from drag and club culture. This is very much an alternative space, where the rigid conventions of the court dissolve, identity is fluid and there's an amiable, anything-goes feel to events.

All this makes for a warm and welcoming production, flecked with comedy and led by Bowers' charismatic Rosalind. Lithe, spontaneous, flirtatious, she relishes her disguise, striking poses and looking every inch the sort of fair youth that might have beguiled a playwright. It's little wonder that Adomakoh Young's sweet Orlando falls for her, and Seelochan's Celia is clearly besotted. As so often, it's that friendship between Rosalind and Celia that strikes you as the deepest love affair in the play, and Seelochan is very funny as Celia, darting waspish glances at the hapless Orlando.

But what land less clearly are the other examples of love: the rampant desire between Touchstone and Audrey; the hopeless infatuation of Silvius for Phoebe; the mutual devotion between Orlando and old Adam. Some sections feel underpowered. And the shadows in this forest are harder to discern here.

> Huge boulders dot the RSC stage, dead birds fall unnervingly from the heights

The whole plot is driven by family division and enmity; Jaques's pithy summation of life — "all the world's a stage" — brings a melancholy reminder that life is brief and death inevitable. There's a lot of grief and longing lurking in the undergrowth. Here, the only real moments of heartache come from Stephanie Jacob's excellent and touching Adam.

It has its flaws then. But this is a staging that wraps the audience in a warm embrace and celebrates diversity and change as joyous and liberating — even the apples offered to the audience at half-time exemplify the riches of variety.
To October 29, shakespearesglobe.com

Isabel Adomakoh Young, left, Macy-Jacob Seelochan, rear, and Nina Bowers in 'As You Like It' at Shakespeare's Globe — Ellie Kurttz

Electronica for the age of social media

POP

Fred Again..
Alexandra Palace, London
★★★☆☆

Chris Allnutt

What is it about Fred Again..'s particular brand of electronic music that has resonated quite so strongly with a new generation? That resonance has seen the man sometimes known simply as Fred (real name Frederick Gibson) tick the boxes of online performances on Boiler Room (23mn views) and NPR Tiny Desk (6.1mn views), plus a primetime debut on Glastonbury's Other Stage, within the past 14 months. And the 30-year-old south Londoner now finds himself flying the flag for the genre at the Mercury Prize later this week.

A run of four shows that began on Monday at London's Alexandra Palace, kicking off a September tour of UK and Europe, before crossing to the US in October, may hold the answer. When he walked out on stage with his regular collaborator, DJ Tony Friend, it was with his phone in his hand; the vertical image it was capturing streamed on to one of the screens behind him immediately spoke to the very modern musical world he has curated.

Fred's three solo studio albums, titled *Actual Life* to *Actual Life 3*, draw heavily on social media clips for their vocals and inspiration. Their names echo that of the folder on his phone where he would store the videos he came across while scrolling, while the album track listings are bookended by tracks based on voice notes. A cursory listen is a bit like scrolling through an edgy but rather harmonious Instagram feed, with the looped and truncated snatches of video beautifully worked into their surroundings rather than played jarringly from someone's phone speaker on a bus.

It would be easy to dismiss this rapacious, rapid-fire approach as derivative. In Fred's hands, it proves a surprisingly emotive way of situating electronic music within the social media age and confronting some of the deeper issues contained within the samples. These touches of melancholy surf on waves of euphoria: "adore u", featuring the vocals of Nigerian-born, London-based artist Obongjayar, hit the highest notes of the show on Monday, as did the infectious piano refrains of "Delilah (pull me out of this)".

If his Glastonbury set was a spontaneous, ephemeral blitz of an introduction, then this was an opportunity for a more personal, in-depth conversation with his back catalogue. A 9pm start and an 11pm curfew should have left space for the extended breakdowns to show off Fred's technical proficiency in a way they couldn't in the hour allotted at Worthy Farm.

Until, suddenly, they didn't. After an hour and a half, with minimal fanfare, the set came to an abrupt end. In truth, the pacing had felt a little off throughout: a scramble to a second set of decks in the middle of the hall had taken the momentum out of the opening tracks; the return trip undid the energy generated with "Jungle", a raucous collaboration with Four Tet. The flashlight filters hadn't quite worked, nor an attempt to get the audience to take part in a multi-part singalong to "Angie (i've been lost)".

It was an ambitious show, full of accomplished instrumentals and improvisation but, as can so often happen on social media, the personal touch got a little lost in a sea of noise. For an artist who seems so often to have nailed his timings, both on stage and off, this felt like something of a missed beat.

fredagain.com

Fred Again.. played part of his Alexandra Palace show on a satellite stage
Sam Neill

FT BIG READ. MONEY

How digital cash got caught in the culture wars

Plans for central bank digital currencies are gaining momentum around the world, raising concerns about privacy and access to cash, but also providing fresh material for conspiracy theorists.
By Siddharth Venkataramakrishnan

At a conference in April, Florida's governor Ron DeSantis veered from familiar swipes at diversity, inclusion and "corporate wokeness" to take aim at a more surprising target.

"One of the things we're going to ban in Florida this year is the idea of a central bank digital currency," he told the audience in Pennsylvania, to whoops and cheers. "Guess what'll happen? They're going to try and impose an ESG agenda through that."

A few years ago, CBDCs were the domain of policy wonks. Today, they are a topic of growing political importance and, among fringe groups, creeping paranoia. Although the exact nature of CBDCs vary from country to country, their overarching nature is that of a digital version of physical cash — money issued by the central bank, unlike cryptocurrencies, which are created by private entities.

More than 100 countries are exploring their introduction, ranging from China — whose "e-yuan" offers greater control and surveillance — to Nigeria, where the eNaira was launched in part to help crack down on informal cash use and electoral fraud.

The US and the UK are no exceptions. In January 2022, the Federal Reserve launched a period of debate and public comment on CBDCs. The Boston Fed and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology completed a project examining the technical feasibility of digital cash in December. In February, the Bank of England and Treasury announced they were considering plans for a "digital pound", driven by fears that in an increasingly cashless world, private companies are offering alternatives to central bank money.

If alternative payment systems were to gain wide adoption, they could undermine financial stability and central banks' ability to enact monetary policy. And if these methods are not interoperable, it could hamper people's ability to carry out basic transactions.

"I think they [the BoE] were really kicked into action by [Meta's] Libra [project]," says Varun Paul, who spent more than a decade at the BoE and is now at fintech Fireblocks. Libra was originally envisioned in 2019 as a global stablecoin, a cryptocurrency with a stable value. But fears over stability and money laundering led the authorities to push back. It was finally wound down in 2022.

The digital pound would run on a digital ledger operated by the BoE. Its implementation would rely on a private-public partnership between the central bank and private companies, who would provide access to the CBDC by creating electronic wallets or smart cards.

"Under these proposals, the digital pound will be as private as the card payments and bank accounts that millions use every day," says the Treasury. "This means [neither] the government nor the Bank of England can access anyone's personal data or see how people are spending their money."

But a growing throng of culture warriors echo DeSantis's view, or go further, decrying CBDCs as a tool designed by global elites and the World Economic Forum to destroy freedom, part of the same conspiracy milieu as vaccines and climate policy.

The impact of misinformation on society can be physical, ranging from attacks on 5G masts in the UK in 2020 to the attempted insurrection at the US Capitol building on January 6 2021. So far, misinformation surrounding CBDCs is yet to reach such heights. But it risks undermining adoption and entrenching fears about government surveillance.

Conspiratorial noise has distracted from reasonable fears raised by experts and campaigners about threats to privacy and inclusivity. Without an adequate response to these issues, campaigners say, there will be no public buy-in.

"If people don't feel confident engaging with a CBDC or any other digital form of money, you won't have consent," says Lord Christopher Holmes, a Conservative peer who campaigns for greater access to payment methods, "and without consent, you haven't even got off the starting block."

Mounting distrust

Conspiracy theories about banking date back centuries. But in the UK, the announcement of a joint Treasury-BoE CBDC "task force" in 2021 galvanised the latest iteration of the movement, according to Samuel Doak, a fact checker at anti-misinformation unit Logically Facts. A quick search on social media reveals that for a growing audience, CBDCs are the gateway to controlling a global population already cowed by a "planned" pandemic.

"What they would like to do is to be able to strip you of your money and to be able to lock you down," said Joe Rogan, an influential podcaster, in a conversation with rapper Post Malone broadcast in August.

Protesters in London last year. Central banks in China, Nigeria and the Caribbean have created digital money, while other central banks are investigating their own CBDCs. Below: the London protests attracted conspiracy theorists who see CBDC as a tool designed by global elites to destroy freedom

FT montage/SOPA/LightRocket/Getty Images; Charlie Bibby/FT

Beliefs that CBDCs are purely a tool to monitor and control the public are now mainstream, says Doak. "Conspiracy theories relating to CBDCs have become key to the 'Great Reset,' an overarching amalgamation of conspiracy theories rooted in the belief that the World Economic Forum, private individuals and state actors are planning to reshape society on a global scale through secretive and repressive means," he says.

The amorphous and confused nature of the Great Reset means CBDCs are often touted as part of a set of measures, says Doak, that includes open borders, efforts at depopulation and the imposition of 15-minute cities — a form of urban planning, which conspiracy theorists believe are a tool to limit movement. A series of financial scandals this year have exacerbated distrust, says Aoife Gallagher, a senior analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

"Events like the Coutts saga [in which the private bank closed former Brexit party leader Nigel Farage's bank accounts] and the Silicon Valley Bank collapse serve as further justification within these communities," she says.

Experts say that, so far, CBDCs have not attracted the level of threats and violence present in other parts of the Great Reset. But it is increasingly part of the mainstream political landscape.

Last month on X, Vivek Ramaswamy, a Republican presidential contender, declared CBDCs to be "just the latest Trojan horse of the Great Reset", and accused US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen of "begging Americans to keep up with the Jinpings", referring to the Chinese president's given name.

The issue is not limited to the Republican party. Robert F Kennedy Jr, who is running for the Democratic nomination, said in April that "CBDCs grease the slippery slope to financial slavery and political tyranny".

Tulsi Gabbard, who ran for the 2020 Democratic nomination but has increasingly taken more conservative positions, appeared on Tucker Carlson's Fox News television show before the presenter was sacked, describing CBDCs as "the latest effort by those in power in our country who are intent on undermining and taking away our freedoms".

Josh Lipsky, a senior director at the Atlantic Council who has studied the topic for half a decade, says that seeing CBDCs thrust into the political limelight is bizarre. "The idea a payment issue would become so political is shocking to me," he says. "The fact it's even mentioned in a presidential campaign is striking."

Experts would prefer to focus on the small print of the CBDCs themselves.

"I think things aren't in a particularly good place overall," says Rohan Grey, assistant professor of law at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. "The general consensus is that there's no articulation on the importance of privacy to overcome concerns [about issues including] terrorism, crime and tax evasion."

The BoE and Treasury said in February that unlike cash, the digital pound "would not be anonymous because the ability to identify and verify users is needed to prevent financial crime". Smaller payments could have greater privacy, they added.

A corollary to that is the question of how necessary digital IDs would be to access a CBDC. The topic has often faced strong pushback in the UK on privacy grounds, but it also risks leaving out the digitally excluded, including the elderly or those without funds to access required devices.

"Will some people be locked out of the system?" says Mark Johnson, advocacy manager at civil rights group Big Brother Watch. "There's a possibility people at the fringes may not have good access to money, exacerbating the way that the financial system already pushes them away."

The potential for a CBDC to offer greater inclusion than the traditional financial system is limited in current proposals, according to Grey. For example, the digital pound paper suggested that the amount individuals could hold would be limited, to avoid encouraging them to move their deposits from commercial banks to the BoE.

"Central banks have made clear the whole [idea] is not to take anything away from existing players — nobody is saying that they're going to replace Visa and Mastercard," Grey says. The aversion to upsetting the status quo means there is little opportunity for a radical rethink of the system. "The commitment to a public-private partnership model is a commitment to impotence," he adds.

In May, Mastercard's European president Mark Barnett told the Financial Times that he was not concerned about a CBDC supplanting existing payment systems such as cards.

"The CBDC might compete a little bit but given what we're talking about in terms of holdings and use cases, I don't think it's a huge deal," he said.

A cashless future?

It is impossible to discuss CBDCs without considering the future of physical cash. While the UK proposal in February said that a digital pound would "sit alongside" its physical counterpart, accessing and using cash is increasingly difficult.

Farage, who has criticised CBDCs, has waded into the debate in the UK, sponsoring a petition to protect cash via broadcaster GB News, for which he is a presenter, and posting, "The banks are trying to force a cashless society upon us!" on X in August.

In many ways, the former Brexit party leader raises a common grievance. Providing cash services is expensive for lenders, who will close 636 of their branches by the end of the year, based on data from ATM operator Link. Consumer group Which? estimates that will leave just 4,000 branches across the UK.

"We understand that cash remains king for many, which is why we have protected access to cash in law — meaning the vast majority of people will have to travel no further than three miles to withdraw money," the Treasury says.

Although the government has given the Financial Conduct Authority powers to protect cash infrastructure, its latest policy statement on the subject suggested that it believed current levels of cash access are acceptable.

Author and journalist Brett Scott notes the increasing rate at which banks are closing their offices in towns and cities across the UK produces its own feedback loop, which justifies further closures. "You see this systemic vortex where the bank closes down a branch, and its harder for businesses to deposit cash, so they prefer if you pay by card, which then gets picked up in the statistics," he says. "All that gets reported as being consumer driven when it's actually bank automation."

'There's a possibility people at the fringes may not have good access to money, exacerbating the way that the financial system already pushes them away'

'The idea a payment issue would become so political is shocking to me. The fact it's even mentioned in a presidential campaign is striking'

And while physical cash use remains below 2019 levels, figures from Link show that more than £7bn was withdrawn from its ATMs in July, a reflection of its importance, in particular to disadvantaged groups.

"For people who are less well off, they can find great difficulty in budgeting digitally," says Derek French, a former NatWest executive and a long-term campaigner for cash access. "You find a lot of people who draw money from a cash dispenser and say: 'This will last me a week.'"

Increasing numbers of branch closures and businesses that no longer accept cash are feeding conspiracy theories, says digital extremism researcher and podcaster Annie Kelly.

"The cashless society stuff is pretty much everywhere in British conspiracy groups," she says. "You see lots and lots of signs and banners which discuss how the move to a cashless society is being orchestrated by elites to make the human population easier to control."

A video of Piers Corbyn, brother of the former Labour leader and an anti-vaccine campaigner, trying to pay with cash at a cashless Aldi store this year has racked up millions of views on X.

"A lot of these people are responding to a way in which they are being undermined and left behind by this [move to digital payments]," Kelly says. "People are responding to a real shift, even if I don't agree with the conclusions."

>100	636
Number of countries exploring CBDC introduction	Bank branches that are set to close this year in the UK

Scott is scathing of the parts of the payments sector that he believes are fanning the culture wars. "I've seen a lot of situations now where people in the fintech industry are weaponising the fact that there's these far right-type people involved to try and say any pro-cash position is regressive and conspiratorial," he says.

Though the decision on the digital pound has not yet been taken, it is clear to experts that the UK government and the BoE — and their counterparts globally — need to change communications strategy.

Videos of officials from central banks and multinational organisations discussing CBDCs at Davos may be useful when winning over policymakers, but they do little to disabuse notions that ordinary citizens are not involved in the process of their deployment.

"I think the kind of [language] that banks and the World Economic Forum use very much appeals to politicians looking for innovative solutions," says Kelly. "It's something that looks a bit efficient and technocratic, and on social media it can often look very cold, very bloodless and quite frightening."

Scott warns that simply dismissing CBDC critics out of hand risks leaving the opposition position open to the culture warriors. "To some extent, I don't mind some forms of corporate services, but there needs to be some counterbalances, and it's OK to say that," he says. "Right now, it's basically just the Nigel Farages of the world [opposing] it."

Holmes, the Conservative party peer, points out that while the government has worked on cash access, there has been less emphasis on the acceptance of physical money by businesses.

"Any public entity should be mandated to accept cash — that's the minimum one should expect," he says. "Then you can consult on how you broaden that out."

And open debate is also vital, says Paul, the former BoE official, to ensure that the information in the public domain is accurate. "The BoE has not specified enough of the stuff [CBDCs] could do, so you end up seeing people over-interpreting or assuming things," he says. "They also need to prove how they'll do things [such as protecting privacy] from a technical point of view as well as a legal one, so no future governments can change that."

Any deployment also needs to learn from mistakes in other countries, he says, such as Nigeria, where the release of the CBDC was coupled with the sudden withdrawal of physical cash, leaving many unable to shop for essentials.

"You don't want to turn adoption on over night," Paul says. "Money is so important for the social fabric of life, and we can under appreciate that sometimes."

The FT View

FINANCIAL TIMES
'Without fear and without favour'

ft.com/opinion

The promise of anti-obesity drugs

Weight-loss medication can boost welfare, but should not replace healthy habits

It is somewhat ironic that Denmark's economic growth in the first half of the year was driven almost entirely by the stellar performance of Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical group. The company's increasingly popular drug, Wegovy, tackles another kind of expansion: human waistlines. This week it became Europe's most valuable company. Its stock has risen over fourfold since 2018. The US approved the medication two years ago, and on Monday Britain's NHS launched it on a limited basis. The fanfare behind the weight-loss injection, and others like it, is understandable. They have enormous potential to boost public wellbeing and slash healthcare costs.

Obesity is a chronic and relapsing disease. Since 1975 its prevalence has nearly tripled. Over 1bn people worldwide are obese, according to the World Health Organization, with the number expected to almost double by 2035. More sedentary lifestyles, combined with the rising availability of processed foods, mean it is a problem for both rich and developing countries. Overweight and obesity is the fifth leading risk for global deaths, and results in a higher prevalence of knock-on illnesses including diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers and more severe symptoms of Covid-19. The social stigma that comes with it can also lead to mental illness.

The effectiveness of a new class of weight-loss drugs such as Wegovy, so-called GLP-1 receptor agonists, underscores the vital and innovative work of pharmaceutical scientists. The injection works by suppressing appetite and slowing the movement of food through the gut. In clinical trials, those on semaglutide, the chemical used in Wegovy, lost 15 per cent of their body weight. US company Eli Lilly has also applied for regulatory approval to use its diabetes drug Mounjaro to treat obesity.

The financial dividends will be vast. The projected $200bn market value within the next decade. But the potential to reduce the strain on government budgets will be most significant, just as demands for health spending rise more generally. The World Obesity Federation expects the economic cost of overweight and obesity to reach 3 per cent of global gross domestic product annually by 2035. This includes the impact on healthcare expenditure, reduced productivity at work, and premature retirement or death.

For all the benefits, there are risks that need to be carefully managed. First, there is limited understanding of the drug's long-term impact and this will need to be closely monitored. Second, the drug will initially be expensive. As more companies come into the market, and patents expire, prices will fall. But, in the interim, governments need to ensure that the most needy, including those on lower incomes and at a higher health risk, are prioritised for subsidised access — while those using it for cosmetic purposes should pay the market price.

> For all the benefits, there are risks that need to be carefully managed

Above all, the drugs must be considered a complement rather than a replacement for broader weight-loss measures. There is a risk that both health and cosmetic users fail to make other important lifestyle adjustments. Users in trials often put weight back on after stopping treatment.

As the drugs become more prevalent, public information campaigns on diet, exercise and the misuse of weight-loss medication will be essential, alongside informative food labelling and access to gyms. For the less well-off, who may be priced out of superfood diets or fitness memberships, this will have greater significance. Wider access to effective weight-loss drugs will be a boon for global welfare. But it should not become an opening to less healthy habits.

Opinion Middle East

An Israeli-Palestinian deal can't wait another 30 years

FT montage/Getty Images

Jan Egeland

Almost 30 years ago, as a young Norwegian diplomat, I sat on the lawn of the White House and watched US president Bill Clinton host two sworn enemies promising to work towards a peaceful future for their peoples. For eight months my life, and that of a small team, had been consumed by organising 14 rounds of negotiations in our secret Norwegian diplomatic back channel. Against all odds, it produced the first mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and a first agreement of principles for how to achieve peace.

The signing of the Oslo Accords was a rare moment of optimism in the long and bitter conflict. The diplomats around me gasped as Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat, chair of the PLO, shook hands. We all got to our feet and applauded. Thirty years on, each visit I make to the still occupied Palestinian territory leaves me asking how the situation for the civilian population could possibly get any worse. Meanwhile, Israel has sought to normalise its relations elsewhere in the Middle East — notably in the so-called Abraham Accords it signed with the United Arab Emirates in September 2020.

> The alternative to robust mediation is more conflict and the danger of greater regional destabilisation

An endless cycle of hopelessness, humiliation and violence is now daily life for many Palestinians. We are at a stage where even an Israeli general has condemned the violence of mafia-style settlers as "terrorism", at the same time as Israeli ministers openly incite violence against Palestinians. In 1993, we had visionary and courageous leaderships on both sides. Now, Palestinian leaders are divided and disconnected from their people. Extremists in the Israeli cabinet promote illegal settlement expansion and annexation of occupied territory.

Back then, settlements were home to 280,000 settlers. Today, they count more than 700,000, blocking peace and rendering any future Palestinian state increasingly unviable. Land grabs are accelerating: in recent months, I have witnessed how state-sponsored settler violence has driven out one Palestinian community after the other from their homes. The international diplomatic response is surprisingly ineffective. While war and occupation in Ukraine has rightfully brought a strong and collaborative response, a far older occupation thrives in plain sight.

Critics of the Oslo Accords highlight the glaring gaps in the Declaration of Principles and our naive optimism. We did indeed underestimate the enemies of peace on both sides, and key opportunities around the final status issues were lost during those first honeymoon months. But the alternative to an imperfect initial agreement and mutual recognition was the hopelessness of endless conflict, occupation and terror. When the agreed timetable for achieving a final peace agreement broke apart, it was, however, all over. Actors on both sides, as well as the international community, must share the blame.

We cannot wait 30 years for another, more successful, breakthrough. In a conflict where few facts are agreed upon, one naked truth is that the asymmetry between the parties, where one side dominates the other, has made it impossible to make progress through direct bilateral negotiations. Only the US has the leverage and the ability to provide the guarantees both sides need.

There is not much time. The current Israeli government has tabled reckless plans for 13,000 new settlement units during 2023, almost three times that of last year. It has, short of an announcement, annexed the occupied West Bank, with a clear intention of making its occupation a permanent fixture. This year is already the deadliest since 2005 for Palestinians in the West Bank. The overcrowded Gaza Strip is under endless siege that foments generational bitterness. The alternative to robust mediation is deepening conflict and violence that will engulf Palestinians and Israelis with the potential for greater regional destabilisation.

The US can corral Europe, Arab countries and the UN to demand the protection of Palestinian human rights and an end to the brutal occupation. It can give Israel the security guarantees that it requires. Both parties agreed in Oslo to submit unsettled disputes to international arbitration. Now, more than ever, this is necessary. Thirty years ago, our credo was that a "just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement" will lead to "peaceful coexistence and mutual dignity and security". This can still be achieved. It is not too late.

The writer was state secretary in the Norwegian ministry of foreign affairs when the Oslo Accords were signed. He is now secretary-general of the Norwegian Refugee Council

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Hype it may be, but generative AI cuts through

While I agree with the sentiment in innovation editor John Thornhill's take on generative artificial intelligence ("The sceptical case on generative AI", Opinion, August 18), and how the claims made for the technology are perhaps overblown, the article does rather downplay what has emerged as a game-changer in recent months.

Generative AI models could redefine norms and boundaries across almost all sectors in society, but public and private sector organisations will have to first realise its value.

This may be hype, but it is cutting through. Within just a few months of the launch of the most popular generative AI tools, one in four people in the UK had already tried out the technology, according to research we conducted at Deloitte.

Just as a comparison, it took five years for voice-assisted speakers such as Amazon's Alexa, Google Assistant or Apple's Siri to achieve the same adoption levels.

It is incredibly rare for any emerging technology to achieve these levels of adoption and frequency of usage so rapidly.

Of course, implementing and scaling any new technology is often more challenging than initially imagined. It is also worth noting that the technology is relatively nascent, with the regulatory environment, legal status, and controls and guardrail design still very much works in progress.

For generative AI to live up to its hype, organisations will need to manage the risks and raise the skill levels of workers to realise the value of the technology.

Michelle Seng Ah Lee
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West turned blind eye to decades of Gabon misrule

President Omar Bongo, father of the deposed Gabon leader, persuaded the Chinese to fund a $4bn Trans-Gabon railway of 416 miles from his village deep in the east equatorial forests to Libreville, the capital. The Chinese also rebuilt the capital to make it look as though it was a small provincial American city. Though its highways were not paved with gold, they were paved with macadam (Report, September 5).

In return, China was given almost free access to Gabon's equatorial forests which, after the Amazon, were the second-largest in the world and the most important in Africa. Swaths of the forests have been destroyed, the pygmy population decimated and critical wildlife, including Gabon's gorilla population, devastated. Bongo recused China from participation in Gabon's reafforestation programme, unlike EU countries working there. The recently deposed President Ali Bongo was an even worse version of his father.

I mention this because over five decades western countries turned a blind eye, washing Gabon's oil funds in their banks and allowing the equivalent of presidential palaces to be built in their capitals.

Derek Wyatt
Former MP, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, UK

Tax income, dividends and capital gains as one item

The letter from Mubin Haq of the Abrdn Financial Fairness Trust (September 4) seems to be arguing for a tax on the unrealised capital gain on homeowners' residences. This does not seem just to me, as (over time) most would be forced to sell their homes in order to pay such a property tax.

A better target is the entire capital gains and dividend tax regimes. I cannot see an economic or moral case for separating income from dividend and (realised) capital gains. All three should be counted as income, and taxed accordingly as a single financial item.

This would level the playing field between earned and unearned income, whereas currently capital gains and dividends are generally taxed at lower rates than income (barring the personal allowance).

It would also simplify the tax regime and bring in more revenue for the government.

Mark Hudson
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Symbiosis between China and Wall St is nothing new

The revelation that Goldman Sachs channelled state funds from China to purchase US companies should surprise no one ("Goldman Sachs bought UK and US companies using Chinese state cash", Report, August 30).

Not to be too cynical about it, but linking suppliers of capital to those who have a need for capital is what investment banks do.

What surprises, however, is that when the deal was first announced in 2017, Goldman Sachs' then chief executive Lloyd Blankfein argued such deals would help address Washington's concerns about a trade imbalance between the US and China by investing Chinese capital in American companies. This turns economic logic on its head.

Foreign capital inflows into American financial markets facilitate the US trade imbalance, not the opposite. This follows from basic national income accounting: when capital inflows exceed outflows, US net foreign investment is, by definition, negative and, in turn, implies a negative trade deficit.

Perhaps, however, the use of incorrect logic by an investment bank chief executive in this way should not surprise. The interests of the American financial sector have been complementary to those of Chinese policymakers for years.

China's export-driven growth model has depended upon the existence of willing foreign buyers for their products, and the American financial sector has profited handsomely by facilitating a debt-driven economy that has made it all possible.

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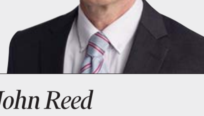
OUTLOOK

ASIA

Dispute over renaming India comes at a volatile G20 moment



by John Reed

Is India India, or is it Bharat? Indians have been arguing this week over the rightful name for their country after a government invitation was sent out using India's Hindi-language one.

Attendees at this week's G20 summit of world leaders in New Delhi have been invited to a dinner this Saturday by Droupadi Murmu, India's head of state, in an invitation that called her the "President of Bharat". The Indian internet promptly exploded with speculation that Narendra Modi's government was poised to change the country's official name exclusively to Bharat, as some nationalists in his rightwing Bharatiya Janata party have been urging.

"The president has given priority to 'Bharat'," education minister Dharmendra Pradhan told local news agency ANI, seeming to confirm India's transition towards a name change. "This is the biggest statement to come out of the colonial mindset." Journalists quickly identified references to Bharat in recent documents relating to Modi's visits to South Africa and Greece last month, and to Indonesia this week.

Rival politicians rounded on Modi, claiming he was nervous about the recent formation of an alliance of the BJP's fragmented opposition, who regrouped under the acronym INDIA with the aim of ousting Modi in the next election. "If the INDIA alliance holds a meeting and renames the alliance Bharat, will they [the BJP] change the name Bharat too?" said Arvind Kejriwal, leader of the opposition Aam Aadmi party in a briefing on Tuesday. "What kind of joke is this?"

The opposition's formation in July of INDIA (which stands for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) was hailed by commentators as tactically brilliant, as the acronym instantly generated news headlines about Modi opposing India, and vice versa. But then this week, as word of a possible name change to Bharat spread, some Indians felt Modi had one-upped the opposition at their own game by reframing the discussion as a struggle between India vs Bharat.

Rumours of a renaming could not have dropped at a more volatile time. In addition to presiding over the G20 summit, his government has called an extraordinary session of parliament later this month, prompting speculation it is readying major legislation or even an early election.

Since taking power nine years ago, Modi's Hindu nationalist government has taken vigorous steps to purge the public square of the trappings of past foreign domination. This drive has extended to both British colonial rule and its Muslim dynasties, though the latter, liberal Indians point out, are now firmly part of India's cultural and human DNA.

As part of a makeover of New Delhi's British-designed government quarter, Rajpath ("Royal Path", previously Kingsway under the British) was last year renamed Kartavya Path ("The Path of Duty"). The Mughal Gardens outside President Murmu's official residence were renamed Amrit Udyan ("Garden of Nectar") in January. Government officials, for their part, frequently use the words "colonial mindset" when deflecting foreign criticism.

Were Modi to remake India as Bharat, he would be following in the footsteps of nationalist leaders elsewhere: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan last year asked the international community to begin calling Turkey Türkiye. Myanmar's military leaders, in their own drive to cast off colonial nomenclature, changed the country's name from Burma in 1989. "Bharat" is in fact already enshrined in the national constitution, which makes clear reference to "India, that is Bharat". Documents in Hindi have long routinely called India Bharat, as do the bilingual roadside banners welcoming delegates to the G20.

But discarding the name "India" entirely would incur costs, critics say, and could alienate states in the non-Hindi-speaking more prosperous south. Indian officials rowed back the notion of an imminent name change in conversations with journalists, giving this week's controversy the feel of a culture war, a baiting tactic for the opposition or possibly a trial balloon.

"India that is Bharat — it is there in the constitution," S Jaishankar the external affairs minister told ANI in an interview on Wednesday. "Please, I would invite everybody to read it."

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Opinion

Investors ponder the 'Japanification' of China

ASIA
Leo Lewis

Back in the day, US food diplomacy was easy. Arnold Schwarzenegger (as it might be) would turn up in Tokyo, pose in a supermarket with grapes and bell peppers and order Japan to eat more American produce.

Last week, as China banned Japanese seafood imports and dialled-up the anti-Japanese rhetoric on the release of treated radioactive water into the sea, the US ambassador, Rahm Emanuel, travelled 300km north to Fukushima. He prominently ate local fish, shopped for local peaches and vowed to feed them to his family. The message to China was clear: stop messing with our friends, Japan's fish and fruit are fine.

The complexity for investors, as many of them have voiced on the sidelines of recent conferences in Asia, lies in the broad reset of thinking that this swerve of US diplomatic priorities seems to imply. Since arriving in Tokyo nearly two years ago, Emanuel has made a habit of taking an undiplomatically strident line on China: the pivotal questions are how much of this stridency is licensed, how much is actually now permanent, cross-party Washington consensus, and how much, realistically, is it ever likely to scale back?

The answer matters profoundly, say fund managers, because of the ever rising pressure to make a call on China's investability over the next 20 years and the increasingly sizeable geopolitical component of that calculation.

There is some fine work on the subject. In a note published last week by the Nomura Research Institute, the economist Takahide Kiuchi warned that, between them, the US and China were leading the world into a "quiet crisis".

And conveniently for those seeking more immediate guidance, the Asia investment conference season is in full cry. Last week the jamboree host was JPMorgan; this week it is concurrently Mizuho, Bank of America and Jefferies, next week it will be CLSA, BNP Paribas and Goldman Sachs. Intriguingly, one of the most consistent framings of the China question being put to the experts and analysts on parade at each of these bunfights has been whether China's economy is undergoing "Japanification".

The term has been kicking around in the context of China analysis for some time. And it works because it neatly reduces a very large suite of investor concerns into a more binary buy-sell problem: does China escape its woes in a couple of years or does it endure one or more "lost decades", as did Japan through the 1990s and 2000s?

> Will Beijing escape its woes in a couple of years or will it endure one or more 'lost decades'?

The obvious starting point with this line of inquiry has been to compare the many features that drove the inflation of Japan's property bubble in the late 1980s with the many features it shares with China's today. Then follows an extrapolation on whether the great rotting heap of problems that resulted from the bursting of Japan's bubble will also be left in the wake of China's.

Some of this theorising is convincing, but there are a few too many "yes, but" differences (population size, per capita income, political regime etc) for the analogy to be completely satisfying. In some cases, like the faster pace of demographic decline, China's current problems actually look more threatening.

But in a report published in mid-August, and in separate discussions around it, Citibank economist Johanna Chua introduces two additional factors to the analysis, both of which give the Japanification framing greater relevance.

The first of these is the less measurable but still vital concept of collective trauma — the circumstances that impose caution on individuals, households and the private sector over the long term, lowering demand and driving the habit of risk-taking out of daily life. In Japan's case, the sheer scale of the bubble and its collapse provided this trauma. China's, argues Chua, was its experience with Covid-19 — and the profoundly unsettling discovery that the government did not have everyone's back in terms of financial assistance and protection of savings.

A second factor, suggests Chua, is geopolitics, in particular the relationship with the US. Japan's frictions with the US in the 1990s were largely confined to trade and ultimately resolved by, among other measures, Japan's decision to substitute auto exports for local production in the US. The current challenges facing the US-China relationship are much greater — and likely to be much more resistant to any equivalent quick fix.

But as an answer to the broad Japanification question, the soured geopolitics are critical. Fundamentally, it asks whether an investor pondering the investability of China is looking at cyclical or persistent threat to growth. Without any clear exit route from the current state of US-China tensions, the latter, unfortunately, seems more likely.

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Voters no longer listen to the Tories

Ewan White

BRITAIN
Robert Shrimsley

One of John Major's cabinet ministers once likened the relationship with voters in the last years to a couple heading for divorce, glaring at each other over the toast and where "even the sound of the milk on the cornflakes is a source of irritation".

In those final months, Tory MPs stopped believing they could win the next election, leadership contenders prioritised their own ambitions and media supporters argued over how to shape the party after a defeat. Above all, voters simply stopped listening to the Tories. No matter that Major was a decent man and Kenneth Clarke an impressive chancellor, the public had seen enough. Efforts to change the narrative were consumed by bad news, gaffes or minor scandals which seemed to epitomise the decay.

This must all sound familiar to Rishi Sunak. Once again we see a government with a studious premier and a capable chancellor trying to appear fresh after too many years in power. And yet, as one ally laments: "The country doesn't seem interested in what we are saying".

The polls suggest he is right. Labour's large lead over the Tories has been steady for more than a year. Sunak's personal ratings are flatlining and in one recent poll 84 per cent said the government looked "tired". Ill discipline and personal ambition abound. At the weekend, Michael Gove toyed with the issue of wealth taxes to tackle intergenerational fairness in an interview with the FT. One may applaud the sentiment but a party heading into a difficult election should not be floating ideas designed to alienate older voters, the only cohort the Tories reliably retain.

Sunak's initial strategy for re-engaging the public was to show voters his party had changed and was worth a fresh hearing by delivering on five key pledges, including cutting NHS waiting lists, halving inflation and curbing illegal cross-channel immigration. Yet even where the data suggests headway, voters are not feeling any improvement, especially on living standards. Meanwhile, political mis-steps have undermined the effort. The number of illegal entrants should fall by 15-20 per cent this year but Tories have so hyped up the issue that this will be seen as failure.

Summer offensives have failed to land. Labour's Keir Starmer is refusing to walk into Tory traps. A mini-reshuffle last week signified only Sunak's dependence on loyalist ministers.

This week has been dominated by a furore over dangerous school buildings; it's emblematic of the wider crisis in public services, which the opposition finds easy to blame on years of Tory under-investment. Health and rail strikes continue. The impression is of a country that does not work as it should and a government that has run out of answers.

Even decent ideas, such as chancellor Jeremy Hunt's pension reforms to boost investment or efforts to cut the numbers on long-term sickness benefits, fail to impress because voters sense they have heard it all before.

Many blame Sunak's own political errors and weaknesses. Media outriders and backbench MPs demand the bold differentiation of tax cuts and diluted net zero policies. In a clear admission that he is failing to engage voters, allies promise more aggression and talk bizarrely of unleashing the "real Rishi". A second bloodier reshuffle is promised, plus more attacks on Labour and greater use of identity politics. They are right on diagnosing the problems but if voters have stopped paying heed to your arguments, "shout louder" is rarely a compelling strategy.

> The impression is of a country that doesn't work and an administration that has run out of answers

The malaise is about more than Sunak's tactical shortcomings. He simply finds himself in power as the music stops. He is reaping the whirlwind of what will be, by election year, 14 years of Tory government, of austerity, Brexit rows, partygate, the Truss interlude and two huge strokes of bad luck in Covid and Ukraine-fuelled inflation.

Not since the vaccine rollout have the Tories enjoyed favourable public attention. One reason for their enthusiasm for goading Labour's London mayor over his anti-pollution Ulez charge is that it is the first time in months that an attack has resonated with supporters. But the Ulez will not win a general election; it probably won't even win the next mayoral election.

The most precious commodity now is the attention of the electorate. With voters no longer listening and the benefit of the doubt gone, they are increasingly forced to behave like an opposition, fighting to get a hearing.

Another dramatic shock could change the political trajectory. But something has to change. Conservatives hope the inevitable extra focus on Labour's manifesto will scare wavering voters. There is precedent for this. But it is equally possible that as Starmer rolls out the final part of his three-stage plan — the positive case for Labour — it could garner, in fact, more enthusiasm.

Ministers predict an economic upturn next spring, though the Resolution Foundation think-tank says this will not improve living standards before the election. And even better economic news can be double-edged as an improved outlook can also leave voters more confident about change.

Sunak still has more than a year if he chooses. He has long argued it may take until the final weeks for Tory voters to come home. But as Major's ministers will remember, once voters stop listening, politics is a place where no one can hear you scream.

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Overlapping crises could fracture the global financial system

Vinod Thomas

When the Titanic set sail in 1912, it was considered unsinkable because the hull was constructed as 16 watertight compartments. The ship would reportedly still float if up to four of these compartments were damaged. A similar assumption underpins today's international financial architecture in the face of a polycrisis: runaway climate change, financial faultlines, the health pandemic, geopolitical dangers, the next generation of artificial intelligence and global water and food shortages.

International leadership seems to think that if two or more crises flare up simultaneously, the system will still float. This assumption is patently wrong. The interplay of the climate crisis with financial fragility alone threatens potentially insurmountable dangers unless immediate action is taken.

Global debt has hit unprecedented levels, weighing down a system still shaken by the pandemic. A shadow banking system of "non-bank financial intermediaries" emerged following the financial crisis of 2008, and now dominates about half of global financing. The unregulated financing attributable to NBFIs is about $240tn.

Meanwhile, the IMF and the World Bank struggle with their capacity to simultaneously tackle pandemic-induced deprivation and escalating climate change-triggered needs. Other risks, such as Russia's war in Ukraine, add to the burden on the system. It is in this context that a worse-than-predicted climate crisis could bring the global financial system to its knees.

The 16 climatic tipping points, identified by a group of researchers in an article in Science, are triggers for a possible collapse in highly leveraged global financial markets. The markets, including regulators and central banks, have failed to integrate the physical, transition and liability risks from climate change into the observable market data.

Take one example: imagine if five of the largest property and casualty insurance companies and the three largest reinsurers failed following previously unlikely ice sheet melt and permafrost collapse, which would lead to flooding. The insurance companies would face unprecedented claims and a decimated investment portfolio, wiping out their capital bases.

> An interplay of climate change and market fragility threatens insurmountable dangers

Furthermore, the effects of climate change on food shortages and supply chain collapses would render the system even more fragile. Price levels would rocket due to an injection of liquidity in the global financial system, as a result of defensive actions such as central bank bailouts. Banks would be knocking on central bank doors to fend off the impact of insurance company defaults.

Taking global action now should be predicated on a recognition that the crisis that once seemed far in the future has arrived. Its reversal depends on an all-out effort to decarbonise economies.

This obliges the G20, a group that accounts for 80 per cent of the world's gross domestic product, to take the lead in addressing the inherent fragility of the current architecture. Members must act swiftly to regulate key aspects relating to growing climate danger, including imposing bank capital charges for carbon-intensive activities.

Moreover, the G20 should impose a high enough carbon price to make it costly to use fossil fuels relative to clean energy sources, plus direct governments to reallocate the more than $5tn a year that they collectively provide in fossil fuel subsidies. These steps would help scale down atmospheric CO_2 towards 350 parts per million, which scientists consider a sustainable threshold.

In addition, regulators and central banks need to integrate liability risks stemming from climate change into market data. That means financial markets would need to ensure a lower cost of capital for securities with low climate change risk exposure or with strong mitigation promise.

Climate damages are translating into billions of dollars of unpriced losses globally, rendering shocks to a shaky system. To meet this challenge, the COP28 presidency ought to syndicate a $100bn adaptation fund among Opec countries. The proceeds would ease the immediate needs of the most vulnerable countries.

If markets included a public function rather than just the private, there would be no need for proactive intervention at the global level. But counting on the markets led to global financial crisis in 2008. That might seem minor compared with the financial peril that climate chaos may bring.

When divers reached the Titanic wreck on the ocean floor, they found the ship with its hull almost intact. Damage in one area had triggered its sinking. To avert a similar fate, the G20 must use its unique platform to act now.

The writer is a former senior vice-president at the World Bank

Local mayors hold the key to rebuilding Ukraine

Lamia Kamal-Chaoui

Ukraine's mayors have played a crucial role in the country's resistance, empowered by far-sighted reforms implemented a decade before the conflict. They must now be positioned to lead the reconstruction effort within their communities.

Ukraine began strengthening its subnational structures nearly a decade ago, granting new powers and responsibilities, and funding, to nearly 1,500 municipalities. Six years into the reform process, on the eve of the Russian invasion, decentralisation was bearing fruit: local public services had improved, along with local capacity to drive change.

A recent OECD report shows that Ukraine's newly empowered subnational governments have become key players in the war effort. First, they have turned the skills, structures and infrastructure created by reforms to new uses. For example, an administrative service centre in the Odesa oblast created a call centre to provide citizens with information on where to find food, shelter and medical assistance.

Second, Ukraine's municipalities have helped subnational governments to keep vital services going despite extraordinary pressure. And third, they have strengthened municipalities' connections with — and ability to mobilise — their people in the resistance to the Russian occupier.

As for reconstruction, the process is already under way, and is a massive undertaking. By May 2023, more than 160,000 residential buildings had been destroyed. Two months earlier, the World Bank had put the total cost of reconstruction at nearly €400bn.

> Newly empowered subnational governments have become key players in the war effort

Local knowledge will be critical in guiding a successful reconstruction effort. Subnational governments should have a seat at the table in national planning bodies — for example through representation at the National Recovery Council. They should also be granted a leading role in designing and implementing reconstruction projects, backed by sufficient funds.

However, Ukraine will need to strengthen and rebuild subnational governments before they in turn can rebuild the country's shattered towns and cities. The invasion has dealt a heavy blow to local capabilities: August data from the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service indicate that the war has already forced over 6,500 civil servants either to leave the country or join territorial defence forces. Skills will be in short supply at a time when they are needed most.

To address these gaps, there will need to be significant investment in the training of regional and municipal public servants in project appraisal, procurement, investment management and transparency. Building this expertise will be especially important in smaller towns and rural communities where more limited capacity risks undermining their ability to apply for and secure funds from the national government and international donors.

One way to address the capacity gap would be a "train-the-trainer" programme. This would support a skilled network of municipal trainers who can "upskill" local officials to deliver infrastructure projects. Local government in Ukraine also needs to develop systems to head off the risk of corruption.

These messages came through loud and clear when world leaders gathered in London in June for the Ukraine Recovery Conference. Participants stressed that the involvement of subnational governments in reconstruction decision-making would drive the recovery, as well as the country's path towards EU and OECD membership.

Ukraine's local institutions and leaders have brought its citizens more than just better services — they have in effect given them a second army as they seek to defend their freedom and their country. They hold the key to the postwar recovery too.

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Telefónica/STC: towers of soft power

Spain's culture is richly rooted in the period when it had Muslim rulers. Saudi Arabian telecoms group STC has just added a modern link. It has bought a 9.9 per cent exposure in Spanish counterpart Telefónica worth €2.1bn.

An ambivalent Spanish reaction has little to do with heroic myths around the Christian *reconquista*. Instead, it reflects the purchase of a key stake in a national asset by a business run by an authoritarian foreign government.

Acting economy minister Nadia Calviño said Spain was reviewing the purchase to check that strategic interests would not be compromised. Telefónica does business with defence groups in Spain. Foreign investment laws mean any increase in voting rights above 4.9 per cent would trigger a national security review. Eyebrows will arch at the fact that STC's precise cash equities stake is 4.9 per cent, with the balance held via derivatives.

STC says that it has no intention of taking control of Telefónica. Its aim is to spread its wings internationally. Saudi Arabia is diversifying its risks out of oil and gas. The two sides already know each other. They announced a strategic partnership in February in areas such as the internet of things.

Telefónica churns out money. Free cash flows should average €3.6bn per year to 2025. They easily cover share buybacks and dividends. Its net debt-to-ebitda leverage ratio (including leases) should peak this year at about 2.5 times, says S&P Global.

STC spent €1.2bn on tower infrastructure in eastern Europe in April. Telefónica would add to these not only in Spain but in Brazil, Germany and the UK.

However, 79 per cent of the group's value comes from Spain and Brazil, points out James Ratzer at New Street Research.

STC is following in the footsteps of rival e&. Last month, the United Arab Emirates business announced that it wanted to increase its stake in UK group Vodafone to 20 per cent. It may influence a restructuring of the telecoms company.

STC will lack that pivotal role at Telefónica, which is a more stable business. And it is debatable whether Spain would allow Saudi Arabia to take a one-fifth stake. There is an element of soft power in even a smaller, passive stake. But Spain has seen other Gulf investors come and go, notably Kuwait at the turn of the century.

It can afford to remain sanguine.

Enbridge/Dominion: of chalk and cheese

You need guts to operate as an entrepreneur in US power generation and distribution. The bosses of regulated utilities have lost their stomach for the fight.

They have sold their risky, volatile projects to buyout groups or businesses backed by them. That leaves utilities to do two things. First, tend to their steady, regulated returns. Second, wait for someone like Enbridge, a Calgary-based company, to unbundle them.

The business, best known for oil and gas pipelines, plans to spend $14bn on buying three natural gas utilities from Dominion Energy. Virginia's Dominion has been in retreat. It will narrow its focus to delivering electricity. It hopes to take advantage of opportunities in data centres and electric vehicles.

Enbridge, with a commanding enterprise value of more than $100bn, believes demand for natural gas will remain resilient. It aims to profit from multiple parts of that value chain.

Can both parties win in what looks like a zero-sum game? That seems like a stretch. If the natural gas market performs as hoped, reflecting transitional fuel status, Enbridge would have the better of the wager.

The proceeds from Tuesday's sale will help Dominion reduce its leverage ratio from 5 times cash flow at present.

Dominion has recently offloaded a stake in its LNG export facility and is separately seeking a financial partner for an offshore wind farm. Both deals demonstrate its retrenchment from adventurism. Its shares have almost halved from 18 months ago. It has been dodging brickbats in Virginia for high charges and prolific political lobbying

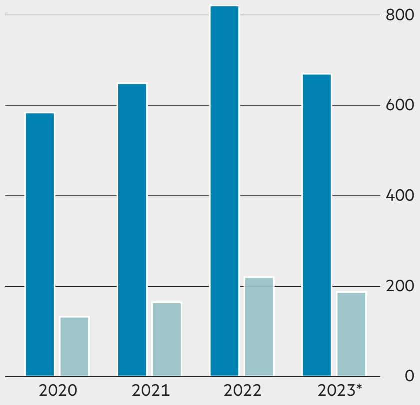
Enbridge, by contrast, is leaning into its financial leverage. This will soar to as much as 5 times ebitda after the Dominion deal. The Enbridge boss described its bet on gas distribution as a "once in a generation" opportunity.

It suits investors when risk-seekers differentiate themselves from ticket punchers. Enbridge's bolder strategy should appeal to impatient public equity markets.

Schott Pharma/IPO: hot shot

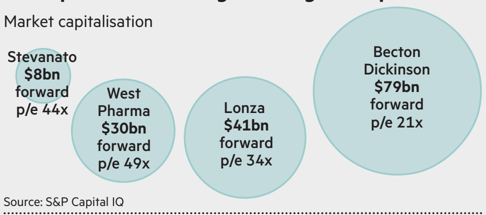
Profitability has been rising at the German pharmaceutical-glassware company. The shares of peers mostly trade on high valuation multiples. The initial public offering will help restart the market after a prolonged lull. Germany accounts for 22 per cent of the money raised by European IPOs since 2018.

Schott Pharma's profitability has been rising



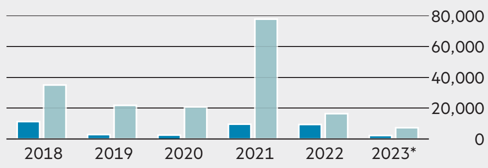
FT graphic Source: company • Fiscal years; *nine months 2023

Some peers trade on high earnings multiples



Source: S&P Capital IQ

Europe's IPO market has been in the doldrums



Source: Dealogic; • *YTD

Investing in drug discovery can be a hit or miss affair. A picks-and-shovels play may offer more consistency.

The unglamorous but vital manufacture of vials and syringes belongs to that category. German pharmaceutical-glassware group Schott Pharma should receive a warm reception when it joins the Frankfurt Stock Exchange this year.

The rarity of IPOs these days guarantees interest. Frankfurt has only had two this year: German green hydrogen producer Nucera and web hosting services provider Ionos.

Schott Pharma is a recently carved-out medical glass unit of speciality-glass manufacturer Schott AG, owned by the Carl Zeiss Foundation. The IPO will involve only the sale of existing shares. This raises funds for Schott AG's green transition and gives Schott Pharma a chance to tap the capital markets if opportunities arise.

The size of the offer is undecided. Schott AG will keep a majority stake.

Schott started making glass ampoules a century ago. Sales and profitability have picked up recently, as the drugs industry tilted towards more injectable drugs requiring higher tech packaging. The skinny jabs made by Denmark's Novo Nordisk and US's Eli Lilly are rapidly expanding the injectables market. Its growth should outpace the overall pharma market by 1.4 times, growing over 8 per cent a year to 2026, according to GlobalData.

Making the pre-fillable syringes for such applications is trickier, but more profitable, than traditional glassware. Schott's ebitda margin has risen from 23 per cent in 2020 to 28 per cent in the first nine months of the year.

It reckons it can push up this margin to the low 30s.

This compares favourably with that of Italy's Stevanato, which listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 2021. Considering the multiples of the Italian group and other peers, Schott Pharma should merit a €4bn valuation.

Schott is not the only company keen to focus on the sector's most profitable niches. Having said this, the injectables segment has high barriers to entry.

That suggests that Schott can navigate a fast-evolving sector.

Universal Music: a beat better

Universal Music chief Lucian Grainge has scored his first victory in a war against "noise". The proliferation of low-quality content on streaming services poses a threat to artists and music rights holders such as Universal.

Examples include the sound of a washing machine. Dull as that may be, such downloads are rewarded in the same way as a Rolling Stones song when it comes to streaming royalties.

The rise of generative AI will only add to the problem. Universal struck a deal with French streaming group Deezer yesterday. This should see more royalties flow to music rights holders.

Universal calls it a new "artist-centric" model. Label-centric might be more apt. Under the terms of the deal, streams of songs from professional artists will count as double in royalty calculations. This change is more symbolic than a revenue changer.

The economics of the industry will not alter much unless Universal can nail similar deals with market leader Spotify and the other streaming giants.

Deezer is a minnow in the streaming market. Research group MIDIA estimated its share last year at 1.5 per cent. Spotify dominates with a 30-plus per cent share of the market.

Streaming and subscriptions accounted for half of Universal's €10.3bn of revenues last year. It says the Deezer deal will be "revenue positive". Yet it is unlikely to deliver a significant boost on its own.

Across the industry, Goldman Sachs estimates noise, such as the sound of rain, generated $900mn in royalties last year.

That is 5 per cent of the total market. AI will surely drive up that share.

Universal's shares fell 23 per cent between February and mid-May as investors feared that AI would disrupt the industry. The stock has recovered much of that, as Universal investigates ways to monetise AI.

It says that it is in talks with other, bigger streaming platforms. This move should offer some reassurance it is taking the AI threat seriously.

US accountants: they've done the math

Two years ago, the US had shortages of lumber, toilet paper and potatoes. Now it is running low on accountants. So acute is the scarcity that pressure is growing to loosen the educational requirements for becoming a certified public accountant. But that alone will not be enough to lure more recruits.

Accountants are the unsung heroes of Wall Street. They do everything from balancing books to investigating fraud. But gruelling work hours, relatively low starting salaries and a coolness deficit mean fewer young people are keen on pursuing a career in accounting.

About 73,000 degrees in accounting were awarded in the US in 2020, down from over 79,850 in 2016. In 2022, just over 67,000 people sat the CPA exam — the lowest level since records began in 2006. Job openings for accountants and auditors are projected to grow by 4 per cent between 2022 and 2032 — with about 126,500 openings each year as baby boomers retire.

The problem is becoming acute for accounting firms, the companies they serve and for investors. US-listed car-parts supplier Advance Auto Parts was unable to file its 10-Q quarterly results form on time earlier this year because of "loss of certain accounting personnel and turnover of accounting positions".

Municipalities across the US risk having their credit ratings downgraded or withdrawn because the dearth of accountants has delayed disclosure documents. Longer term, fewer qualified CPAs to work on audits could mean more Enron-style blow-ups.

States such as South Carolina and Minnesota want to reduce the barrier to entry. Would-be accountants need 150 college credit hours to get their degrees and before they can sit for the CPA exam; that essentially translates into a fifth year of college.

Lowering the bar might not help much. Compared with jobs in the tech and banking sectors, accounting — where the average salary is $78,000 a year — is underpaid. The US should start stumping up for professional number crunchers.

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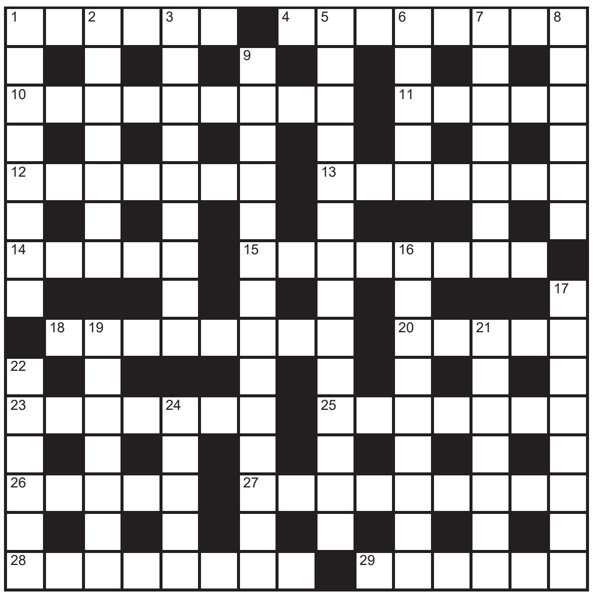

ACROSS

1 Heavyweight jazzman finding time for right notes in this case (6)
4 Something appetising caught by grapple attached to pier (5,3)
10 Young people avoiding Head being absorbed by golf, perhaps, here? (9)
11 Flat where retired prima donna briefly stores a piano (5)
12 One providing support not so happy about student (7)
13 No chat show host retracted something barbed (7)
14 It's very slow with e-network going west (5)
15 Country place hosting races is short of a ground (8)
18 Foot's holding on to Labour saw cuts in production (8)
20 Short cut ... I'm not sure it's better (5)
23 Liberal Democrat's plugging involved woman (7)
25 50% of equity seized by a Spanish lawcourt at the outset? That's unfair (7)
26 Scotsman returns bill for classical water feature (5)
27 I'll find EU in disarray — or abolished? (9)
28 Gnome beginning to snort morphia is high (8)
29 Extremely hardy eutherian Africans (6)

DOWN

1 This is the location of part of New York (4,4)
2 Disguise provenance of one coming ashore around mid-January (7)
3 Young singer on the up enthrals the old king (9)
5 Badly exposed backs left QPR without cover (9,5)
6 Clergyman raised under £1 for organ (5)
7 Spooner's raunchy police movie provides fodder for Cineworld (7)
8 What Schoenberg and Grieg do in a coda (6)
9 Censors prod ten wayward journalists (14)
16 Hoped-for outcome for people tying love knots? (9)
17 Pieces performed by old maids entertaining Ethel on vacation (8)
19 Elizabethan variety of hair gel (7)
21 Promotion of cocaine in sale leads to formal warning (7)
22 Female drivers' club introducing male joiner (6)
24 Device setting pulses racing monitors those on the rebound (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 17,515

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